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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOW ON SALE: MAKE-YOUR-OWN PACKAGES FOR PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CONCERTS 2025-26 SEASON

Princeton University Concerts' 132nd year of programming includes the world's greatest classical music stars playing repertoire from early music to contemporary, including new music by Princeton University Department of Music graduate students. Information is available at puc.princeton.edu.

PRINCETON, NJ—Princeton University Concerts (PUC)'s 2025-26 season offers more opportunities than ever before to experience the world's most celebrated musicians at the lowest prices in the region. From September 2025-April 2026, 23 performances span diverse artists, repertoire, and formats in which to experience chamber music. **Curated Series Subscriptions** went on sale on March 27, 2025 and are still available. Now, **Make-Your-Own Packages**, which afford concertgoers the opportunity to purchase three or more 2025-26 concerts at 10% off single ticket prices, are available for purchase. Additionally, Curated Series Subscribers can now add-on individual events to their subscriptions, with the subscriber perk of a 10% discount per add-on ticket.

Make-Your-Own Packages can include performances across PUC's series. Each series provides new ways of experiencing music: the mainstage **Concert Classics** series, a tradition since 1894, bringing renowned stars of classical music to Princeton; the **Performances Up Close** series, celebrating its 10th season, where audience sits on stage with the musicians in a one-hour concert; the **Music & Healing** series, an exploration of the intersection of music, healing, and the human experience; **All in the Family** concerts; performances by the **Richardson Chamber Players**, an ensemble of Princeton University Music Department faculty and talented students; and two **Special Events** featuring violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja and mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato with Time for Three in groundbreaking theatrical programs.

"At the heart of everything we do at Princeton University Concerts is a commitment to meeting people where they are," says **Marna Seltzer**, Director of Princeton University Concerts. "Our Make-Your-Own packages have always been a popular way for patrons to curate a season that fits their lives and tastes—sampling across our offerings and discovering new favorites along the way at discounted ticket prices. Purchasing now is the best way to secure your seats for these performances, many of which sell out

before single tickets are even available in August. A Make-Your-Own package is a wonderful way to stay connected to the music and to this community.”

Do-Re-Meet social events for music lovers, including pre-concert speed dating, speed friend-ing, and an LGBTQIA+ Mingle, will be paired with select concerts on this series as an extension of the community-building heart of the Performances Up Close series. These events are available for priority registration to curated series subscribers and Make-Your-Own package buyers and will become available to the public on August 4, 2025.

September-December 2025

The season opens with the **Takács String Quartet** alongside special guest violist **Jordan Bak** on Thursday, September 25, 2025 and the genre-defying **cellist Abel Selaocoe**, who blends classical cello with throat singing and other traditions of his South African roots, on Tuesday, September 30, 2025. Both events are part of the Performances Up Close series, inviting the audience to sit onstage alongside the performers in informal, hour-long programs. Other Performances Up Close events this fall include flutist **Emi Ferguson** with the early music band **Ruckus** (November 13, 2025); and accordionist **Théo Ould** (December 10, 2025).

For the past three seasons, PUC’s *Music & Healing* series has delved deeply into the intersection of music, healing, and the human experience. The 2025-26 season continues this exploration centered on one of life’s most inevitable truths: endings—and the new beginnings they create. On Wednesday, October 8, 2025, legendary choreographer **Mark Morris**, one of the most prolific and musically insightful artists of our time, will reflect on how he is preparing his dance company and his body of work with an eye towards his own mortality in a conversation interwoven with dances performed by members of his company. On Wednesday, December 3, 2025, MacArthur “Genius” Fellow and visionary opera and stage director **Peter Sellars** will lead an intimate conversation, sharing how some of his most powerful artistic works have emerged from his darkest moments—and how music has helped both himself and others navigate grief and loss.

On Saturday afternoon, October 18, 2025 at 1PM, musicians from **The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** will be joined by host **Bruce Adolphe** for a performance curated for children ages 6-12 at Richardson Auditorium as part of PUC’s All in the Family offerings. The **Richardson Chamber Players**, comprising Princeton University Music Department performance faculty and supremely talented students, will present another fall afternoon of music on Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 3PM.

PUC’s mainstage Concert Classics series features two welcome returns this fall: the **Belcea String Quartet** on Thursday, October 23, 2025 and acclaimed pianist **Paul Lewis** on Thursday, November 6, 2025.

February-April 2026

February 2026 features several exciting PUC debuts. On Thursday, February 5, 2026, tenor **Benjamin Bernheim**, “the most beautiful tenor voice since Luciano Pavarotti” (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*) who performed at the closing ceremonies of the Paris Olympics and the reopening of Notre Dame, will perform with Canadian pianist **Carrie-Ann Matheson**. The following Thursday, February 12, 2026, the **Marmen String Quartet**, who have developed a reputation for their refreshing and daring interpretations at prestigious venues like Wigmore Hall and the BBC Proms, will explore the deep connection between folk traditions and the most innovative voices in classical music, including Canadian composer **Cassandra Miller**.

Also in February is the first of the 2025-26 Season’s two groundbreaking, theatrical Special Events. *Emily—No Prisoner Be*, a new work by **Kevin Puts** inspired by Emily Dickinson, created for mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** and America’s classical garage band **Time for Three**. The production will make its New Jersey debut on Sunday, February 22, 2026. A few weeks later on Thursday, March 26, 2026, *Dies Irae* (“*Day of Wrath*”), violinist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja**’s powerful multimedia reflection on war and climate change, will make its East Coast premiere in the evocative setting of the Princeton University Chapel. As part of the production, Kopatchinskaja will perform alongside the University’s own **Richardson Chamber Players** and the Princeton University **Chapel Choir**.

“Joyce DiDonato and Patricia Kopatchinskaja are artists who continually redefine what a concert can be,” says Seltzer. “We’re incredibly fortunate that our longstanding relationships with both visionaries inspired their choice to bring these bold, deeply imaginative projects to Princeton. It’s a testament to the kind of artistic home we strive to create here.”

March continues the wave of exciting PUC debuts. On Sunday, March 1, 2026, the acclaimed **Castalian String Quartet** takes the stage, featuring Princeton native Natalie Loughran on viola. Then, on Thursday, March 19, 2026, internationally celebrated Spanish pianist **Javier Perianes** makes his much-anticipated PUC debut alongside the legendary violist **Tabea Zimmermann**, whose long-awaited return marks a major highlight of the season in an intimate and expressive duo program.

On Saturday, March 14, 2026, there will be two afternoon relaxed-format performances curated for neurodiverse children ages 3-6 as part of PUC’s “Little Listeners” program. Host **Rami Vamos** will lead us on a kid-friendly exploration of classical music.

April 2026 spans four events featuring some of the world’s best strings players. The PUC fan-favorite **Ébène String Quartet** will perform on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, and the **Australian Chamber Orchestra**, under the direction of **Richard Tognetti**, makes a welcome return to the series on Thursday, April 23, 2026.

The season closes with the long-awaited return of celebrated violinist **Lisa Batiashvili**, performing with pianist **Giorgi Gigashvili**, the Georgian protégé of pianist Martha Argerich, making his PUC debut. On Wednesday, April 29, 2026, Batiashvili will be the focus of the Music & Healing event *Sounding Defiance: Georgia & Ukraine*, a powerful reflection on music’s resilience in the face of attempted cultural erasure. Her conversation will be punctuated by live performance alongside Gigashvili. The next evening, on Thursday, April 30, these Georgian virtuosos will play a Concert Classics program of Beethoven, Bartók, Franck, and a new work by fellow Georgian Josef Bardanashvili.

“Lisa Batiashvili has poignantly said, ‘First of all, we are human beings, and then we are musicians—not the other way around,’” says Outreach Manager and Music & Healing curator **Dasha Koltunyuk**. “That sentiment speaks so deeply to our mission. We look forward to exploring this idea together with our audiences at her Music & Healing event, and to experience the depth of her humanity through both events during her time with us.”

TICKET INFORMATION

Princeton University Concerts continues to offer the lowest ticket prices in the region.

Curated Series Subscriptions include the **Concert Classics Series** (8 concerts starting at \$208), **Performances Up Close Series** (5 concerts for \$170), and **Music & Healing Series** (3 events for \$66) with the option to add individual events at a 10% discount.

As of May 12, 2025, patrons can also purchase **Make-Your-Own Packages** by selecting three or more concerts across series at a 10% discount.

Single tickets go on sale August 4, 2025 online and September 8, 2025 by phone. More details at puc.princeton.edu.

Patrons enrolled in qualifying aid programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, and public housing, as well as to NJ Families First Discovery Pass holders, are encouraged to enroll in PUC’s **Admit All program**. Admit All provides access to discounted tickets for \$11 or less at select concerts throughout the season. Those interested in participating in the Admit All program can visit puc.princeton.edu/admit-all or call the PUC office at 609-258-2800 to learn more.

Free opportunities, including Live Music Meditations, book group discussions at the Princeton Public Library, and the Annual Chamber Jam, will be announced later this summer.

For more information, please visit puc.princeton.edu or call **609-258-2800**.

THE 2025–26 SEASON

(Organized by series, then chronologically)

**Denotes Princeton University Concerts debut*

All events are held at Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall on the Princeton University campus unless otherwise noted.

CONCERT CLASSICS SERIES (8 CONCERTS)

Hear the world’s most vibrant and celebrated classical musicians—both fan favorites and long-awaited debuts— within the intimacy of Richardson Auditorium on our mainstage series.

Thursday, October 23, 2025 | 7:30PM

BELCEA STRING QUARTET

Mozart String Quartet No. 19 in C Major, K. 465 “Dissonance” | **Brett Dean** New String Quartet (composed for the Belcea Quartet) | **Beethoven** String Quartet No. 16 in F Major, Op. 135

Thursday, November 6, 2025 | 7:30PM

PAUL LEWIS, Piano

Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 10, No. 1 | **Thomas Larcher** Piano Sonata (New Commission) | **Schubert** Piano Sonata No. 21 in B-flat Major, D. 960

Thursday, February 5, 2026 | 7:30PM

BENJAMIN BERNHEIM*, Tenor

CARRIE-ANN MATHESON*, Piano

Henri Duparc L’invitation au voyage, Chanson triste, Phidylé | **Ernest Chausson** Poème de l’amour et de la mer, La fleur des eaux, La mort de l’amour | **Frederic Mompou** Damunt de tu només les flors | **Alberto Ginastera** Canción al árbol del olvido | **Giacomo Puccini** Mentia l’avviso, Terra e mare, Sole e amore | **Joseph Kosma** Les feuilles mortes | **Charles Trenet** Douce France | **Jacques Brel** Quand on n’a que l’amour

Thursday, February 12, 2026 | 7:30PM

MARMEN STRING QUARTET*

Haydn String Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 76, No. 4 “Sunrise” | **Cassandra Miller** Leaving (2011) | **Bartók** String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor, Sz. 67 | **Debussy** String Quartet

Thursday, March 19, 2026 | 7:30PM

TABEA ZIMMERMANN, Viola

JAVIER PERIANES*, Piano

Robert Schumann Fantasiestücke, Op. 73 | **Johannes Brahms** Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 120 No. 2 | **Benjamin Britten** Lachrymae, Op. 48 | **Dmitri Shostakovich** Viola Sonata, Op. 147

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 | 7:30PM

ÉBÈNE STRING QUARTET

Mozart String Quartet No. 15 in D Minor, K. 421 | **Ravel** String Quartet | **Brahms** String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor, Op. 51, No. 2

Thursday, April 23, 2026 | 7:30PM

AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

RICHARD TOGNETTI, Director

Franz Schubert “Quartettsatz” in C Minor, D. 703 | **John Luther Adams** New Work | **Ralph Vaughan Williams** *The Lark Ascending* | **Fanny Mendelssohn** String Quartet No. 1 in E-flat Major, Op. 12

Thursday, April 30, 2026 | 7:30PM

LISA BATIASHVILI, Violin

GIORGI GIGASHVILI*, Piano

Beethoven Violin Sonata No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op. 12, No. 3 | **Bartók** Violin Sonata No. 1, Sz.75 | **Josef Bardanashvili** New Work | **Franck** Violin Sonata in A major

PERFORMANCES UP CLOSE SERIES (5 CONCERTS)

Sit on Stage! Experience these one-hour concerts up close in an intimate, immersive setting. Celebrate the 10th anniversary of this beloved series—now available as a subscription for the first time. Enjoy music that's immediate, informal, and perfectly timed for your schedule.

Thursday, September 25, 2025 | 6PM & 9PM

TAKÁCS STRING QUARTET

JORDAN BAK, Viola

W.A. Mozart String Quintet No. 3 in C Major, K. 515, String Quintet No. 4 in G Minor, K.516

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 | 6PM & 9PM

ABEL SELAOCOE*, Cello

Works by **J.S. Bach**, new works by **Michel van der Aa** and **Ben Nobuto**, and more

Presented in collaboration with the African Music Ensemble

Thursday, November 13, 2025 | 6PM & 9PM

RUCKUS Early Music Band*

EMI FERGUSON, Flute

“Fly the Coop,” a joyous, kaleidoscopic romp through some of **J.S. Bach**’s most playful and transcendent works, including his flute sonatas and keyboard works.

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 | 6PM & 9PM

THÉO OULD*, Accordion

Works by **Bach**, **Piazzolla**, **Bartók**, **Villa-Lobos**, **Rameau**, and others

Presented in collaboration with Princeton Sound Kitchen

Sunday, March 1, 2026 | 3PM & 6PM

CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET

Leoš Janáček String Quartet No. 2 “Intimate Letters” | **Felix Mendelssohn** String Quartet No. 5 in e-flat Major, Op. 44, No. 3

MUSIC & HEALING SERIES (3 EVENTS)

Explore the intersection of music, healing, and human experience through conversation and performance with multifaceted artists. This season, the series explores how music helps us navigate endings—shaping artistic memory, offering solace in times of loss, and sustaining cultural heritage.

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 | 7:30PM

MARK MORRIS, Choreographer

“The Dance Lives On: Contemplating Artistic Legacy”

A conversation with Mark Morris, permeated by selections of his choreography.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 | 7:30PM

PETER SELLARS*, Director

“Mourning through Music”

A conversation with Peter Sellars, permeated by live performance.

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 | 7:30PM

LISA BATIASHVILI, Violinist

“Sounding Defiance: Georgia & Ukraine”

A conversation with Lisa Batiashvili complemented by live performance, featuring the violinist alongside her fellow Georgian, pianist Giorgi Gigashvili.

To further explore music’s role in navigating endings and envisioning new beginnings, Music & Healing series subscribers have the exclusive opportunity to add the Special Event “Dies Irae” to their subscription at a 20% discount.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Patrons who purchase a series subscription can add one or both of the following Special Events at a discounted rate when placing a subscription order:

Sunday, February 22, 2026 | 3PM

JOYCE DiDONATO, Mezzo-soprano

TIME FOR THREE String Trio

Kevin Puts *Emily—No Prisoner Be*, a new, semi-staged song cycle based on poems of Emily Dickinson

Thursday, March 26, 2026 | 7:30PM at the Princeton University Chapel

PATRICIA KOPATCHINSKAJA, Violin

Princeton University Chapel Choir

Richardson Chamber Players

Dies Irae

A semi-staged multimedia work conceived by violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja merging a fierce musical enactment of the day of judgment with a sharp critique of war and the climate crisis as drivers of our self-destruction, weaving together the compositions of **Giacinto Scelsi, Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber, George Crumb, Jimi Hendrix, Antonio Lotti, John Dowland, and Galina Ustvolskaya** to evoke a haunting final “day of wrath.”

RICHARDSON CHAMBER PLAYERS (2 CONCERTS)

Formed in 1994–95 on the occasion of PUC’s 100th anniversary, this mixed ensemble comprises Princeton University’s performance faculty, distinguished guest artists, and supremely talented Princeton University students.

Sunday, November 2, 2025 | 3PM

A Little Night Music: **Gustav Mahler** *Rückert-Lieder* for Mezzo-Soprano, Violin, Viola, Cello, and Piano (arr. Stéphane Fromageot) | **Clancy Newman** Palindromic Variations for String Trio | **Arnold Schoenberg** *Verklärte Nacht* (*Transfigured Night*), Op. 4

Thursday, March 26, 2026 | 7:30PM at the Princeton University Chapel

The **Richardson Chamber Players** will perform in violinist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja**’s *Dies Irae*, a semi-staged musical portrayal of judgment day that reflects on war and the climate crisis, spanning music from John Downland to Jimi Hendrix.

ALL IN THE FAMILY—2 PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

PUC nurtures a lifelong love of music by offering kids a chance to encounter chamber music in person through two special programs featuring world-class musicians.

Saturday, October 18, 2025 | 1PM

“Meet the Music: Musical Fairy Tales” with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and host **Bruce Adolphe**

Curated for kids ages 6-12 and their families

Saturday, March 14, 2026 | 1PM & 3PM

“Little Listeners: Time for Music” with host **Rami Vamos**

A relaxed-format concert curated for kids ages 3-6, including neurodiverse children, and their families
Works by **Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Dvořák, Rorem, and Leroy Anderson**

DO-RE-MEET

Concertgoers can extend their experience with pre-concert social events for music lovers. Presented by Princeton University Concerts in partnership with **Risa Grimaldi** of **TheSinglesGroup.com**. These events are held at the historic Maclean House on the Princeton University campus, just steps away from the concert hall. Do-Re-Meet events are available for priority registration to Performances Up Close series subscribers and will become available to single ticket buyers at a later date.

Thursday, September 25, 2025 | 7 PM

Pre-Concert Speed Dating

Paired with **Takács String Quartet & Jordan Bak, Viola** (*Performances Up Close, 9 PM*)

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 | 7 PM

Pre-Concert Speed Friend-ing

Paired with **Abel Selaocoe, Cello** (*Performances Up Close, 9 PM*)

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 | 7 PM

LGBTQIA+ Mingle & Holiday Ugly Sweater Party!

Paired with **Théo Ould, Accordion** (*Performances Up Close, 9 PM*)

Sunday, March 1, 2026 | 1 PM

Pre-Concert Speed Dating

Paired with **Castalian String Quartet** (*Performances Up Close, 3 PM*)

AT THE LIBRARY

Explore books related to events and artists appearing on PUC's series through free book group discussions and guest speaker keynote talks presented in partnership with the Princeton Public Library. Titles and events TBA.

AT THE MOVIES

Enjoy films related to the programs and artists on PUC's series through our partnership with the Princeton Garden Theatre, the community's local nonprofit arthouse theater. Screenings TBA.

LIVE MUSIC MEDITATION

PUC's internationally acclaimed, groundbreaking initiative, a partnership with the Princeton University Office of Religious Life, pairs guided meditation with live performance by the world's greatest musicians. The hour-long, free sessions, are held throughout the year. Dates and artists TBA.

ANNUAL CHAMBER JAM

Princeton University Concerts' Annual Chamber Jam is an opportunity for amateur musicians of all ages and levels to make music alongside professional artists. Past participants include members of the Berlin Philharmonic with conductor Gustavo Dudamel, Chicago Symphony Winds, East Coast Chamber Orchestra, Escher String Quartet, St. Lawrence String Quartet, Takács String Quartet, and the Tenebrae Choir. The 2025-26 Chamber Jam artists are to be announced.

2025–2026 SEASON CONCERTS AT-A-GLANCE

**Denotes Princeton University Concerts debut*

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Thursday, September 25, 2025 | 6PM & 9PM

TAKÁCS STRING QUARTET

JORDAN BAK, Viola

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 | 6PM & 9PM

ABEL SELAOCOE*, Cello

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 | 7:30PM

MARK MORRIS, Choreographer

The Dance Lives On: Contemplating Artistic Legacy

Saturday, October 18, 2025 | 1PM

“Meet the Music: Musical Fairy Tales” with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and host Bruce Adolph

Curated for kids ages 6-12 and their families

Thursday, October 23, 2025 | 7:30PM

BELCEA STRING QUARTET

Sunday, November 2, 2025 | 3PM

RICHARDSON CHAMBER PLAYERS

A Little Night Music

Thursday, November 6, 2025 | 7:30PM

PAUL LEWIS, Piano

Thursday, November 13, 2025 | 6PM & 9PM

RUCKUS Early Music Band*

EMI FERGUSON, Flute

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 | 7:30PM

PETER SELLARS*, Director

Mourning through Music

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 | 6PM & 9PM

THÉO OULD*, Accordion

Thursday, February 5, 2026 | 7:30PM

BENJAMIN BERNHEIM*, Tenor

CARRIE-ANN MATHESON*, Piano

Thursday, February 12, 2026 | 7:30PM

MARMEN STRING QUARTET*

Sunday, February 22, 2026 | 3PM

JOYCE DiDONATO, Mezzo-soprano

TIME FOR THREE String Trio

Emily—No Prisoner Be

Sunday, March 1, 2026 | 3PM & 6PM

CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET

Saturday, March 14, 2026 | 1PM & 3PM

“Little Listeners: Time for Music”

with host Rami Vamos

Thursday, March 19, 2026 | 7:30PM

TABEA ZIMMERMANN, Viola

JAVIER PERIANES*, Piano

Thursday, March 26, 2026 | 7:30PM

at the Princeton University Chapel

PATRICIA KOPATCHINSKAJA, Violin

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CHAPEL CHOIR

RICHARDSON CHAMBER PLAYERS

Dies Irae

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 | 7:30PM

ÉBÈNE STRING QUARTET

Thursday, April 23, 2026 | 7:30PM

AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

RICHARD TOGNETTI, Director

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 | 7:30PM

LISA BATIASHVILI, Violinist

Sounding Defiance: Georgia & Ukraine

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GIORGI GIGASHVILI*, Piano