UCSB Arts & Lectures announces 65th anniversary season

Distinguished for the extraordinary quality of its programming and for handling both performing arts and lectures with equal aplomb, UCSB Arts & Lectures is a powerhouse among presenting organizations. And they’ve done it again. From Yo-Yo Ma to Lil Buck and from Yung Pueblo to Father Gregory Boyle, the just-announced 65th anniversary 2024-2025 season at Arts & Lectures promises to provide something for everyone.

“More than a milestone — it's a time to reflect on the organization's storied past and celebrate with our friends and supporters,” said Miller McCune Executive Director Celesta M. Billeci. “It's also a time to look ahead and imagine what the next 65 years can bring."

The season opens Oct. 1 at the Arlington Theatre with Snarky Puppy, a fiercely popular large ensemble that combines the best features of contemporary jazz, funk and jam-based music in one hard-grooving package. Other early season highlights include HARAWI, a performance featuring superstar soprano Julia Bullock and dancers from the American Modern Opera Company (Oct. 4), a lecture by Salman Khan, the founder of Khan Academy (Oct. 5) and a double bill concert pairing the roots music legend Mavis Staples with rising stars The War and Treaty (Oct. 8).

Series subscriptions are now available on the UCSB Arts & Lectures website. Single tickets go on sale Friday, Aug. 2 at 10 a.m
Dance has traditionally been a central component of Arts & Lectures' offerings, and the 2024-2025 series may be the strongest yet. Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan kicks things off with “13 Tongues,” a fantastic spectacle based on Taiwanese folklore set amid Taipei's vibrant night markets (Nov. 2). Dorrance Dance follows in December with “The Nutcracker Suite,” a tap adaptation of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic set to music by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn (Dec. 5).


The 65th anniversary season also features appearances by longtime friends of Arts & Lectures and returning performers, including Yo-Yo Ma (April 5) and Wynton Marsalis (May 17), and dance icons Twyla Tharp Dance (Feb. 11) and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (April 15 and 16).

A complete current list of events is available on the Arts & Lectures website. More events will be added throughout the season.

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About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the
edge of the Pacific Ocean.