

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GREEN MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCES FALL 2020 SEASON – *THE GREEN ROOM*

An online season of revealing conversations, personal connections, and compelling performances

(Sonoma County, CA) – Sonoma State University's Green Music Center announced today its on-line Season for Fall 2020. Entitled *The Green Room*, the format is inspired by the tradition of theater green rooms—a backstage lounge where performers relax— and will feature conversations with artists as well as performances to enjoy in your home.

The Green Room continues the Green Music Center's practice of deep student engagement with frequent artist visits to Sonoma State classes for online discussions and workshops. Highlighting the Fall 2020 season are four artists in residence from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines. In addition to their online performances these artists will engage students about their creative processes, personal stories, and the questions they are asking about our world.

Artists in Residence for Fall 2020 include musician, performing artist and cultural Babalawo (spiritual guide) **Michael Mwenso** offering his unique and ancestral perspective on Black music (Sept 17, Oct 22, & Nov 19). Green Music Center favorites **Las Cafeteras** and their infectious genre-bending sound that infuses lyrically-rich storytelling with the purpose of sharing the hidden stories of migrant life in Los Angeles (Oct 15). Visionary choreographer **Liz Lerman** who returns to continue her work on *Wicked Bodies (Sonoma)*, a new site-specific work to premier in 2022 which explores the depictions of women's bodies across multiple historic periods (Nov 5). The multicultural musical group **DDAT** that draws from each member's interests and cultural background. With poetic lyrics, hip hop style, and hard-driving instrumental fire DDAT has carved its own path with high desert-forged influences and world-class musicianship (Dec 3).

In addition to these captivating artists in residence, the Green Music Center also announced three free online performances as part of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center *Front Row: National Series*. The **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** (CMSLC) has been capturing performances in HD video and sound for many years. Because this material is of such high quality – both artistically and technically – it represents a unique collection for chamber music lovers. *CMS Front Row: National* is a series of programs, expertly curated by CMS co-Artistic Directors David Finckel and Wu Han, to celebrate chamber music at its finest (Oct 17, Nov 7, & Dec 12).

Other compelling performances include the captivating artistry of guitarist **JJI**. An adventurous artist on both acoustic and electric guitar, JJI plays an extensive range of music from traditional and contemporary classical music to free improvisation (Oct 11). This October also features the multi-instrumental band **Invoke**, which encompasses traditions from across the United States of America, including bluegrass, Appalachian fiddle tunes, jazz, and

minimalism. Invoke weaves all of these styles together to create truly individual music written by and for the group (Oct 24). The **Juilliard String Quartet** bring their unparalleled artistry and enduring vigor to the Fall 2020 Season in November. In addition to sharing some favorite performances, the quartet will discuss their careers, the life of a quartet, and how they are making their way forward during a pandemic. (Nov 15)

All shows last 60-75 minutes They stream at the appointed time and are then available to watch for 48 hours following the stream.

Tickets go on sale to the general public on Thursday, September 10 at 10 a.m. Visit gmc.sonoma.edu for tickets and more information.

TICKETS

Individual Show Tickets \$10*

Entire Series of 9 shows \$80

Sonoma State Students are free**

*The 3 public Chamber Music Society Performances are a part of The Green Room but NOT included in subscriptions. They are ticketed but FREE.

**Other discounts not available for The Green Room

The 3-performance series of Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center are **free** for everyone.

Subscribers and Donors receive access to 2 additional Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center performances for free.

Subscribe or [donate](#) today.

THE GREEN ROOM **FALL 2020 SEASON**

Michael Mwenso's Black Music Series

A Form of Protest

Thu, Sept 17 at 7 P.M.

Presented in part by Redwood Credit Union

Musician, performing artist and cultural Babalawo (spiritual guide) **Michael Mwenso** offers his unique and ancestral perspective on Black music. As an African-born queer man growing up in London and New York, Mwenso and special guests delve into a wide range of his own discoveries while shedding light on the Black experience through discussion, historical recordings, and performance.

In *A Form of Protest*, Michael Mwenso examines music as a form of activism, and the role it has played in pushing the boundaries on civil rights, human rights, class inequality and more. Mwenso brings his own story to the discussion, sharing his personal experiences in defying social norms and moving against the grain to create music that pushes boundaries.

Grab your favorite beverage, find a comfortable seat, and learn more about Mwenso's story and the power of Black music.

Jiji, guitar

Sun, Oct 11 at 3 P.M.

Jiji is an adventurous artist on both acoustic and electric guitar, playing an extensive range of music from traditional and contemporary classical music to free improvisation. Jiji is celebrated for her performances of works by numerous emerging composers, as well as her own compositions which incorporate electronic media and acoustic music.

Her music is influenced by her regular activities as a DJ, where she highlights several electronic dance styles. As a chamber musician, she performed with members of Eighth Blackbird, Bang on a Can All-Stars, and wildUp. Her performances have been featured on PBS, NPR's *From the Top*, and Hong Kong broadcast station RTHK's *The Works*.

Grab your favorite beverage, find a comfortable seat, and learn more about Jiji's personal story, approach to the guitar, and the music she loves.

Las Cafeteras

Thu, Oct 15 at 7 P.M.

One of our favorite guest artists, **Las Cafeteras** are Native and migrant children who are remixing roots music and telling modern day stories with what *LA Times* has called a "uniquely Angeleno mishmash of punk, hip-hop, beat music, cumbia and rock."

Las Cafeteras own a genre-bending sound that grows from *son jarocho* with 4 versatile vocalists infusing lyrically-rich storytelling with the purpose of sharing the hidden stories of migrant life in Los Angeles. You will witness sounds ranging from Afro-Mexican to Americana, from the Caribbean to California, from traditional to electric, from English to Spanish with all the emotions in between.

Travel to the past and listen to the future of the Americas in one show. Grab your favorite beverage, find a comfortable seat, and learn more about the Las Cafeteras story and the world they are trying to create.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Front Row: National

Summer Evenings IV

Sat, Oct 17 at 7 P.M.

The **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** (CMSLC) has been capturing performances in HD video and sound for many years. Because this material is of such high quality – both artistically and technically – it represents a unique collection for chamber music lovers. *CMS Front Row: National* is a series of programs, expertly curated by CMS co-Artistic Directors David Finckel and Wu Han, to celebrate chamber music at its finest.

PROGRAM

GEMINIANI: Sonata in C major for Cello and Continuo, Op. 5, No. 3

Timothy Eddy, cello | Mihai Marica, cello

Kenneth Weiss, harpsichord

HAYDN: Quartet in F major for Strings, Op. 50, No. 5, "The Dream"

Orion String Quartet

Todd Phillips, violin

Daniel Phillips, violin

Steven Tenenbom, viola

Timothy Eddy, cello

COPLAND: Appalachian Spring Suite for Ensemble

Gloria Chien, piano

Kristin Lee, violin

Chad Hoopes, violin

Arnaud Sussmann, violin

Angelo Xiang Yu, violin

Matthew Lipman, viola

Paul Neubauer, viola

David Finckel, cello

Nicholas Canellakis, cello

Anthony Manzo, double bass

Ransom Wilson, flute

David Shifrin, clarinet

Marc Goldberg, bassoon

Michael Mwense's Black Music Series

The Code Switch

Thu, Oct 22 at 7 P.M.

Presented in part by Redwood Credit Union

Musician, performing artist and cultural Babalawo (spiritual guide) **Michael Mwense** offers his unique and ancestral perspective on Black music. As an African-born queer man growing up in London and New York, Mwense and special guests delve into a wide range of his own discoveries while shedding light on the Black experience through discussion, historical recordings, and performance.

In *The Code Switch*, Michael addresses the question, "Why do black musicians have to mask their blackness through other forms of music in order to gain acceptance into the white community and reach a larger fan base?" Ray Charles famously made several forays into country music, which was marketed towards a white audience, and even today many black artists are pushed to "code switch" to fit in and gain acceptance to a larger fanbase.

Grab your favorite beverage, find a comfortable seat, and learn more about Mwense's story and the power of Black music.

Invoke

Sat, Oct 24 at 7 P.M.

Described as “not classical...but not not classical” (*David Srebnik, SiriusXM Classical Producer*), **Invoke** continues to successfully dodge even the most valiant attempts at genre classification. The multi-instrumental band encompasses traditions from across the United States of America, including bluegrass, Appalachian fiddle tunes, jazz, and minimalism. Invoke weaves all of these styles together to create truly individual music written by and for the group.

They are equally comfortable performing as a traditional string quartet or picking up extra instruments to include banjo, mandolin, and fiddle in their expansive sound.

Grab your favorite beverage, find a comfortable seat, and learn more about Invoke’s unique approach to championing diverse voices, including their ongoing commissioning project *American Postcards*, which asks composers to pick a time and place in history and tell their story through Invoke’s unique artistry.

Liz Lerman

Wicked Bodies (Sonoma)

Thu, Nov 5 at 7 P.M.

Visionary choreographer **Liz Lerman** returns to The Green Music Center, to create a new site-specific work developed over the next two years for premier in 2022. *Made possible through a Hewlett 50 Arts Commission*, a program of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, *Wicked Bodies (Sonoma)* is an exploration of depictions of women’s bodies across multiple historic periods.

This event will feature a discussion of Liz’s inspiration and themes found in the piece, plans for making it, and opportunities for people to participate in the development. Liz will also share remarkable video from the rehearsal process.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Front Row: National

Artist Series: David Shifrin (clarinet)

Sat, Nov 7 at 7 P.M.

The **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** (CMSLC) has been capturing performances in HD video and sound for many years. Because this material is of such high quality – both artistically and technically – it represents a unique collection for chamber music lovers. *CMS Front Row: National* is a series of programs, expertly curated by CMS co-Artistic Directors David Finckel and Wu Han, to celebrate chamber music at its finest.

MOZART: Quintet in A major for Clarinet, Two Violins, Viola, and Cello, K. 581

David Shifrin, clarinet

Danbi Um, Bella Hristova, violin

Mark Holloway, viola

Dmitri Atapine, cello

BASSI: *Concert Fantasia on Themes from Verdi's Rigoletto* for Clarinet and Piano

David Shifrin, clarinet

Gloria Chien, piano

ELLINGTON: *Clarinet Lament* for Clarinet and Piano

David Shifrin, clarinet

Gloria Chien, piano

Juilliard String Quartet

Sun, Nov 15 at 3 P.M.

With unparalleled artistry and enduring vigor, the Juilliard String Quartet continues to inspire audiences around the world. Founded in 1946 and hailed by the *Boston Globe* as “the most important American quartet in history,” the ensemble draws on a deep and vital engagement to the classics, while embracing the mission of championing new works, a vibrant combination of the familiar and the daring.

Join members of the quartet for a discussion of their careers, the life of a quartet, and how they are making their way forward during a pandemic. They will also share some favorite performances with one movement from each of the following pieces:

MOZART: String Quartet No. 17 in B-flat major, K. 458 "The Hunt"

DUTILLEUX: *Ainsi La Nuit (Thus the Night)* Commissioned for the quartet in the 1970s

BRAHMS: String Quartet in A minor, Op. 51, No. 2

Michael Mwenso's Black Music Series

Ancestry

Thu, Nov 19 at 7 P.M.

Presented in part by Redwood Credit Union

Musician, performing artist and cultural Babalawo (spiritual guide) **Michael Mwenso** offers his unique and ancestral perspective on Black music. As an African born queer man growing up in London and New York, Mwenso and special guests delve into a wide range of his own discoveries while shedding light on the Black experience through discussion, historical recordings, and performance.

The inherent and unknowing connection to one's ancestors is often an integral part to shaping an artist's musical journey. In *Ancestry*, Michael delves into the importance of connecting with your ancestral past in order to help understand the present and future. Along the way he highlights artists including guitarist Gary Clarke Jr and singer/multi-instrumentalist Rhiannon Giddens who use their ancestors to help pay tribute to their past while shaping their present.

Grab your favorite beverage, find a comfortable seat, and learn more about Mwenso's story and the power of Black music.

DDAT

Thu, Dec 3 at 7 P.M.

A multicultural musical group that draws from each member's interests and cultural background, **DDAT** blends national touring artist **Def-i's** intelligent, poetic lyrics and hip hop style with the hard-driving instrumental fire of award-winning trumpet player **Delbert Anderson**, the deep funk of international touring artist and drummer **Nicholas Lucero**, and the intellectually explorative and expanding groove of **Mike McCluhan** on bass. DDAT has carved its own path with high desert-forged influences and world-class musicianship.

Grab your favorite beverage, find a comfortable seat, and learn more about the members of DDAT, their personal stories, wide ranging influences, and serving as ambassadors of Navajo Cultural Music.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Front Row: National

Artist Series: Gilbert Kalish, piano

Sat, Dec 12 at 7 P.M.

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Pianist Gilbert Kalish leads a program featuring soprano Lisette Oropesa

CRUMB: Three Early Songs for Voice and Piano

Tony Arnold, soprano; Gilbert Kalish, piano

SCHUBERT: "Der Hirt auf dem Felsen" for Soprano, Clarinet, and Piano, D. 965, Op. 129

Lisette Oropesa, soprano; David Shifrin, clarinet; Gilbert Kalish, piano

BRAHMS: Quartet No. 3 in C minor for Piano, Violin, Viola, and Cello, Op. 60

Gilbert Kalish, piano; Nicolas Dautricourt, violin; Paul Neubauer, viola; Torleif Thedéen, cello

ABOUT THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER

Nestled in the foothills of Northern California's esteemed Wine Country, the Green Music Center (GMC) at Sonoma State University is a focal point for arts in the region. It is comprised of the spectacular 1,400-seat Weill Hall, an acoustically exceptional venue with a modular rear wall that opens to terraced lawn seating, providing picturesque views of the surrounding countryside, and the 240-seat Schroeder Hall, a cathedral-like recital hall designed specifically to accentuate

instruments, organ and voice in a small, intimate setting. The Green Music Center presents year-round programming of top classical, contemporary, jazz, and world music artists and is home to the Santa Rosa Symphony.

ABOUT SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Located in California's premier wine country one hour north of San Francisco, Sonoma State is a small campus with big ideas. With a tradition of promoting intellectual and personal growth, leadership opportunities and technological proficiency, SSU offers its students a friendly, safe and informal atmosphere on a beautiful campus setting. One of the most requested campuses in the CSU system, SSU is regularly named a "Best Regional University" by U.S. News & World Report.

The Press Democrat is the Media Sponsor of the Green Music Center

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