

For Immediate Release

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January & February 2023 at the Green Music Center

Bang on a Can All-Stars: *Can Dance*

Gretchen Parlato

New Century Chamber Orchestra

Yamato: The Drummers of Japan

Balourdet Quartet

(Sonoma County, CA) — The Green Music Center at Sonoma State University continues its 10th Anniversary Celebration in 2023, with eighteen compelling performances within Weill Hall and Schroeder Hall from January through May. The contemporary genre-defying ensemble **Bang on a Can All-Stars** kick off the new year with their new program *Can Dance*. Recognized worldwide for their innovative boundary crossing music, Bang on a Can's newest show is a seamless integration of cutting-edge music, revolutionary dance, and film.

In February, Grammy® award-winning jazz songstress **Gretchen Parlato** performs in the intimate Weill Hall Loft with Paul Cornish (piano), Ben Williams (bass), and Mark Guiliana (drums). Fresh off her latest Grammy® nominated album *Flor*, Gretchen brings her jazz stylings to a gorgeous synthesis of original material, American popular music, European classical music, and Brazilian standards. Later that week, the **New Century Chamber Orchestra** continues their 30th anniversary celebration with a program entitled *Sparkling Connections*. Featuring works by Schubert, Debussy, Haydn, and more. This special performance will feature the acclaimed San Francisco Girls Chorus under the direction of Valérie Sainte-Agahe.

On the final weekend in February **Yamato: The Drummers of Japan** take the Weill stage to perform Japan's traditional Wadaiko drums. Like the strong and sturdy heartbeats of a lonely runner with a sleek and powerful body, Yamato attempts to create the energy of life, which envelops the audience and performers. What one feels when surrounded by the sound of Wadaiko, brought out by these highly trained performers, is what the Japanese call "Tamashii", translated as soul, spirit, and psyche – the basic elements of life. It is something which is invisible and intangible but whose existence is certainly felt.

February concludes with a performance in Schroeder Hall by a young ensemble on a meteoric rise. The **Balourdet Quartet** whose many accolades include the Grand Prize at the 2021 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition will perform works by Hugo Wolf, Felix Mendelssohn, and Ludwig van Beethoven.

View the full listing of performances in the 10th Anniversary Season and purchase tickets visit gmc.sonoma.edu or call 707.664.4246.

Bang on a Can All-Stars: *Can Dance*

Sunday, January 29, 2023 | 7 p.m.

Weill Hall

\$25–\$75

Heralded as “the country’s most important vehicle for contemporary music” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Bang on a Can All-Stars are recognized worldwide for their dynamic live performances and recordings of today’s most innovative music. Freely crossing the boundaries between classical, jazz, rock, world, and experimental music, this six-member amplified ensemble has consistently forged a distinct, category-defying identity, taking music into uncharted territories.

The Bang on a Can All-Stars’ newest show is a seamless integration of cutting edge music, revolutionary dance, and film. Nine extraordinary choreographers have been commissioned to create dance/films to music written for and performed live by the Bang on a Can All-Stars.

- **Josue Collado Fregoso:** *Joie de Vivre* with Marissa, a film by **Pioneer Winter**
- **Michael Gordon:** *July* (selections) for solo piano with film by **Brian Brooks**
- **Hildur Guðnadóttir:** *Illimani with Fear of Dog*, a film by **Andros Zins-Browne**
- **David Lang:** *interstate* with film by **Annie-B Parson**
- **Qasim Naqvi:** *Featureless* with film by **Kyle Marshall**
- **Angélica Negrón:** *Turistas with Kookik*, a film by **Keerati Jinakunwiphat**
- **Henry Threadgill:** *With or Without Card* with film by **Rena Butle**
- **Trevor Weston:** *Dig it with The Burglar*, a film by **Jerron Herman**
- **Julia Wolfe:** *Into the clouds* with film by **Andrea Miller**

Supported in part by Cartograph Wines

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Gretchen Parlato

Thursday, February 9, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

Weill Hall Loft

\$25–\$45

Gretchen Parlato, vocals
Paul Cornish, piano & keys
Ben Williams, bass
Mark Guiliana, drums

Award winning jazz vocalist and songwriter Gretchen Parlato has justly earned a reputation as one of the most inventing and mesmerizing vocalists of her generation. In 2021 she released *FLOR*, a

project honoring her love and admiration of Brazilian music and her first studio recording in nearly a decade. “This project is a reflection of a time of putting myself aside and being completely present as a mom,” says Gretchen. “I’m finally able to find the balance between artistic creativity and nurturing motherhood. My purpose has both a higher and deeper meaning. There is a story to tell, now...of who I am in this role, and how that is reflected in the music.” The album has earned Gretchen her second Grammy® Award nomination for Best Jazz Vocal Album.

Featured on over 85 albums, and four as a leader, Gretchen received her first Grammy Award nomination for *Live in NYC* (2013) and a coveted 4.5 star review from *DownBeat Magazine* with the DVD hitting No. 1 on the iTunes best music video list. *The Lost and Found* (2011) received more than 30 national and international awards, including the *DownBeat Jazz Critics Poll No.1 Vocal Album of 2011* and *iTunes Vocal Jazz Album of the Year*. Her 2009 sophomore release, *In a Dream*, was *JazzTimes Critics Poll Vocal Album of 2009* and hailed by *Billboard* as “the most alluring jazz vocal album of 2009.”

[More Info](#)

[Watch video](#)

New Century Chamber Orchestra ***Sparkling Connections***

Daniel Hope, Music Director and Concertmaster

San Francisco Girls Chorus

Valérie Sainte-Agathe, Artistic Director

Saturday, February 11, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

Weill Hall

\$35–\$95

Led by Music Director and violinist Daniel Hope, the New Century Chamber Orchestra celebrates its 30th Anniversary with a program featuring Haydn’s *La Passione* Symphony, Mendelssohn’s *D minor Violin Concerto*, and some lovely Schubert, Brahms, and Lili Boulanger songs featuring the San Francisco Girls Chorus.

Program

Lili Boulanger: *Les Sirènes*

Claude Debussy: *Salut Printemps*

Franz Schubert: *Ständchen D. 920*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Violin Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Major, K. 207*

Joseph Haydn: *Symphony No. 49 in F minor, “La Passione”*

Engelbert Humperdinck: *Selections from Hansel & Gretel*

[More Info](#)

[Watch Video](#)

Yamato: The Drummers of Japan
Hinotori – The Wings of Phoenix
Saturday, February 25, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.
Weill Hall
\$25–\$85

The *Hinotori – The Wings of Phoenix* tour marks the 30th Anniversary of Yamato!

Yamato was founded by Masa Ogawa in 1993 in Nara, ‘the land of Yamato’ which is said to be the birthplace of Japanese culture. Presently based in Asuka Village, Nara Prefecture, Yamato travels all over the world with Japan’s traditional Wadaiko drums, putting its very souls into the unusual instruments, whose sound stirs the hearts of people everywhere.

Like the strong and sturdy heartbeats of a lonely runner with a sleek and powerful body, Yamato attempts to create the energy of life, which envelops the audience and performers. What one feels when surrounded by the sound of Wadaiko, brought out by these highly trained performers, is what the Japanese call ‘‘Tamashii’’, translated as soul, spirit, and psyche – the basic elements of life. It is something which is invisible and intangible but whose existence is certainly felt. The pulse, carried down from antiquity, will resonate within all the bodies gathered at any given performance.

Supported in part by Oxford Suites

[More Info](#)
[Watch Video](#)

Balourdet Quartet
Sunday, February 26, 2023 | 3 p.m
Schroeder Hall
\$30–\$40

A young ensemble on a meteoric rise, the Balourdet Quartet is in residence at the New England Conservatory’s Professional String Quartet Program. They received the Grand Prize at the 2021 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition, the top prize awarded in the 2021 Premio Paolo Borciani in Italy, the Gold Medal at the 2020 Fischhoff Competition, and Chamber Music America's 2021 Classical Commissioning Grant.

Their program is entitled Serenade and the quartet offers this note about it:
We are often asked how we develop unity in our voice as a quartet and one of the answers we love to give is that we sing together. Singing is humanity’s key to musical expression and this program celebrates the human voice and the voice of the Balourdet Quartet. From the operatic nature of the Wolf, the tender lyricism and warmth in the Mendelssohn, and the Cavatina in Beethoven op. 130, this program showcases some of the quartet repertoire’s most touching lyrical moments.

[More Info](#)
[Watch Video](#)

About the Green Music Center

The Green Music Center is the performing arts center at Sonoma State University, a regionally serving public university committed to educational access and excellence. As a cornerstone of Sonoma State University's commitment to the arts, the Green Music Center is a place to witness artistic inspiration through year-round programming, serving as home to the Sonoma State University Music Department, the Santa Rosa Symphony, and Sonoma Bach.

The mission of the Green Music Center is to present the most compelling artists of our time, to investigate ideas, and to provide access to diverse artistic experiences that educate, connect, and inspire Sonoma State University and neighboring North Bay communities.

Built to bring together artists, students, families, music-lovers, and more, the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University is a gathering place for our diverse communities in Sonoma County to explore and enjoy the things that move and inspire us. The center includes the 1,400-seat Weill Hall, with a rear wall that opens to lawn seating for a unique summertime experience, and the intimate 240-seat Schroeder Hall.

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.

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