

For Immediate Release

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February 2026 Highlights at the Green Music Center

Performances include

Emily—No Prisoner Be: Joyce DiDonato and Time For Three
Chris Thile

Sonoma Guitar Series: **Sérgio & Odair Assad – 60th Anniversary Tour**

(Sonoma County, CA) — February at the Green Music Center features a dynamic mix of intimate storytelling and virtuosic performance, bringing some of today's most compelling artists to Weill Hall. Highlights include ***Emily—No Prisoner Be***, a moving, semi-staged song cycle by **Kevin Puts** that pairs acclaimed mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** and string trio **Time For Three** with the poetry of Emily Dickinson; a solo evening with Grammy-winning mandolinist **Chris Thile**, whose genre-defying artistry blends Bach, folk traditions, and original works; and a special 60th anniversary celebration with legendary guitar duo **Sérgio and Odair Assad**, showcasing the precision, warmth, and rhythmic vitality that have defined their six-decade career.

Tickets for all February performances are available at **gmc.sonoma.edu**, where visitors can also explore the full season calendar, learn more about each artist, and discover additional concerts and events throughout the year.

February 2026

Weill Hall | Schroeder Hall | Weill Hall Loft

Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano

Time For Three, string trio

Emily—No Prisoner Be

Co-Presented by Sonoma Strings

Sunday, February 1, 2026

7 p.m. Weill Hall \$51-\$121

Emily—No Prisoner Be is a 24-part song cycle composed by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts for Grammy Award-winning artists Joyce DiDonato and Time for Three. The music feels at once familiar and new, brimming with energy, passion, and an undeniable chemistry between the performers. Emily Dickinson's poetry and Puts' music feel as if they have always belonged together. With atmospheric lighting and strikingly simple staging designed by Andrew Staples, the performance draws audiences into Dickinson's inner world. Step into Emily—where every moment is both intimate and infinite.

Multi-GRAMMY Award winner and 2018 Olivier Award winner for Outstanding Achievement in Opera, Kansas-born **Joyce DiDonato** entrances audiences across the globe, and has been proclaimed

“perhaps the most potent female singer of her generation” by *The New Yorker*. With a voice “nothing less than 24-carat gold,” according to *The Times*, Joyce has towered to the top of the industry as a performer, a producer, and a fierce advocate for the arts. With a repertoire spanning over four centuries, a varied and highly acclaimed discography, and industry-leading projects, her artistry has defined what it is to be a singer in the 21st century.

Grammy and Emmy-winning ensemble **Time For Three** (TF3) defies convention and boundaries, merging classical, Americana, and singer-songwriter traditions into a singular, remarkable sound. Consisting of Ranaan Meyer (double bass, vocals), Nicolas “Nick” Kendall (violin, vocals) and Charles Yang (violin, vocals), TF3 captivates audiences worldwide with their virtuosic playing and insatiable appetite for creativity that expands typical perceptions of a string trio.

Pulitzer Prize and Grammy®-winning composer **Kevin Puts** has established himself as one of America’s leading composers, gaining international acclaim for his “plush, propulsive” music (*The New York Times*), and described by *Opera News* as “a master polystylist.” His work has been commissioned and performed by leading organizations around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, Philadelphia Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Opera Philadelphia, Minnesota Opera, and many more, and has collaborated with leading artists such as Renée Fleming, Joyce DiDonato, Joshua Bell, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Marin Alsop, and Stéphane Denève among many others.

Chris Thile

Thursday, February 26, 2026
7:30 p.m. Weill Hall \$51-\$111

Acclaimed Grammy Award-winning mandolinist, singer, songwriter, composer, and MacArthur Fellow recipient of the prestigious “Genius Grant”, Chris Thile is a multifaceted musical talent, described by *The Guardian* as “that rare being: an all-round musician,” and hailed by *NPR* as a “genre-defying musical genius.” Thile is a founding member of the highly influential string bands *Punch Brothers* and *Nickel Creek*, and has collaborated with countless luminaries from Yo-Yo Ma to Fiona Apple to Brad Mehldau.

For four years, Thile hosted public radio favorite *Live from Here with Chris Thile* (formerly known as *A Prairie Home Companion*). With his broad outlook, Thile creates a distinctly American canon and a new musical aesthetic for performers and audiences alike, giving the listener “one joyous arc, with the linear melody and vertical harmony blurring into a single web of gossamer beauty” (*New York Times*).

Over the last couple of years, Thile toured with *Nickel Creek* in support of the critically acclaimed 2023 release *Celebrants*. Most recently, he has been captivating audiences with a playfully ambitious biographical composition entitled “ATTENTION! (a narrative song cycle for extroverted mandolinist and orchestra)”, and has been focused on the production of a new musical variety show, *The Energy Curfew Music Hour*. Created with Claire Coffee and featuring *Punch Brothers*, Season One and Season Two are available on Audible and all podcasting platforms.

The wide-ranging program of Thile’s 2025-2026 solo performances will feature selections from his acclaimed solo recordings of Bach’s Sonatas and Partitas – including his recently released second

volume – alongside his signature post-genre blend of compositional rigor, folksy stagecraft, and improvisational brilliance.

Supported in part by Cartograph Wines, Oliver's Market, Redwood Credit Union, and Willow Creek Wealth Management.

Sonoma Guitar Series

Sérgio & Odair Assad

60th Anniversary Tour

Friday, February 27, 2026

7:30 p.m. Weill Hall \$41-\$101

Brazilian-born brothers Sérgio and Odair Assad celebrate 60 years of setting the standard of guitar innovation, ingenuity and expression. Their exceptional artistry and uncanny ensemble-playing come from a family rich in Brazilian musical tradition and studies under guitarist/lutenist Monina Távora, a disciple of Andrés Segovia. Their virtuosity has inspired a wide range of composers to write for them including Astor Piazzolla, Terry Riley, Radamés Gnattali, Marlos Nobre, Nikita Koshkin, Roland Dyens, Jorge Morel, Edino Krieger, and Francisco Mignone. Sérgio has added to their repertoire by composing music for the duo that showcases their virtuosity.

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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