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Green Music Center Announces 2026–27 Season in Weill Hall & Schroeder Hall

The Green Music Center at Sonoma State University announces an extraordinary lineup of performances for the 2026–27 season, bringing together legendary artists, rising stars, global traditions, groundbreaking theater, and beloved holiday favorites for a year of unforgettable live experiences in Sonoma County.

The season opens with a landmark event as Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis takes the stage in Weill Hall on September 26 as part of Marsalis' final season as Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center and Music Director of the internationally acclaimed ensemble. From there, the season spans genres and generations with performances by Hawaiian vocalist Raiatea Helm (October 16), Grammy- and Emmy-nominated singer-songwriter Ingrid Michaelson (October 18), Americana icon Lyle Lovett and his Small Large Band (October 29), genre-blending Latin rock ensemble La Santa Cecilia (November 5), South African vocal legends Ladysmith Black Mambazo (February 18), civil rights and gospel-soul trailblazer Mavis Staples (March 5), high-energy dance company Step Afrika! (March 27), and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Spectacular (December 20), alongside world-class classical performances by the Juilliard String Quartet with pianist Simone Dinnerstein (November 19), New Century Chamber Orchestra with Daniel Hope and Lara Downes (January 29), and Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (April 29).

This season also highlights the Green Music Center's commitment to cultural connection and artistic discovery with performances by Mexican jazz vocalist Lucía (October 2), Irish holiday ensemble Cherish the Ladies: A Celtic Christmas (December 4), jazz piano master Kenny Barron (February 11), cross-cultural ensemble Aga Khan Master Musicians (April 18), acclaimed saxophonist Dave Pietro Quintet (April 24), and folk-jazz storytellers Ethan Lipton & His Orchestra (May 13), as well as thought-provoking programs including *What You Won't Do For Love* featuring environmentalists David Suzuki and Tara Cullis (November 8), and social justice speaker Anthony Ray Hinton (April 20).

In addition to performances on stage, the Green Music Center continues to deepen community engagement through its annual Free Family Day (April 3) and a new season-long artist residency with multidisciplinary artist Beatrice Thomas, whose work explores cultural identity, racial justice, and queer visibility through collaborative arts programming across Sonoma State University and the wider community.

Subscription packages to these performances will go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, June 16 at 10 a.m. To view the full listing of performances visit gmc.sonoma.edu.

When to Purchase Subscription Packages

NEW Patrons may request subscriptions through the Green Music Center's subscription request form available on gmc.sonoma.edu beginning May 28 at 10 a.m. This online form will allow users to select preferred performances and seating choices. After receiving your request, our box office team will personally build your order and contact you to confirm your tickets and process payment.

Standard phone and online sales for subscription packages will begin on the following dates. Visit gmc.sonoma.edu or call 707.664.4246 for more information.

- Pre-sale for \$1,000+ Donors: Tuesday, June 9 at 10 a.m.
- Pre-sale for 2025–26 Subscribers: Thursday, June 11 at 10 a.m.
- General on-sale: Tuesday, June 16 at 10 a.m.
- Single Ticket on-sale date TBA

Green Music Center
2026–27 Season
Weill Hall | Schroeder Hall | Weill Hall Loft

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
with Wynton Marsalis

Saturday, September 26, 2026
7:30 p.m. Weill Hall \$71–\$161

The September 26 concert in Weill Hall will make jazz history as this performance is part of Wynton Marsalis' final season as Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center and Music Director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO), comprises 15 of the finest jazz soloists and ensemble players today. Under Music Director Wynton Marsalis, they perform a vast repertoire, from rare historic compositions to Jazz at Lincoln Center-commissioned works, including compositions by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Thelonious Monk, Dizzy Gillespie, and more.

Supported in part by The Gables Wine Country Inn and Oliver's Markets.

Party for the Green: *A Night at the Supper Club*

\$500/person (includes concert)

Tables of 10 start at \$5,000

Celebrate the opening of the season with an evening inspired by the timeless charm of the supper club. Prior to the performance by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, join us for dinner and drinks at Prelude. Party for the Green will feature a warm, intimate atmosphere that evokes the elegance and spirit of a bygone era.

Lucía

Friday, October 2, 2026

7:30 p.m. Weill Hall Loft

\$36–\$56

A 24-year-old vocalist from Veracruz, México, Lucía's artistic vision bridges the gaps between jazz, Latin and pop music. In 2022, she became the first artist from Mexico to enter and win the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition. Lucía's debut album features her interpretations of jazz standards ("What a Difference a Day Makes," "You Must Believe in Spring," etc.), classic Spanish songs ("Silencio," "La Llorona," "Como Fue") and current pop songs by Taylor Swift and Olivia Rodrigo.

Raiatea Helm

A Legacy of Hawaiian Song & String

Friday, October 16, 2026

7:30 p.m. Weill Hall

\$31–\$91

Raiatea Helm is one of Hawai'i's most celebrated vocalists and a torchbearer of the Hawaiian falsetto tradition, *leo ki'e ki'e*. She made history as the first-ever Hawaiian solo female vocalist nominated for a Grammy®. Her pure, gorgeous voice and passionate knowledge of Hawai'i's rich musical history shine in her newest project *A Legacy of Hawaiian Song and String*.

Ingrid Michaelson

Sunday, October 18, 2026

7 p.m. Weill Hall

\$61–\$121

Grammy and Emmy Nominated singer-songwriter/composer Ingrid Michaelson is a force in the music industry, known for her distinctively soulful folk-pop style. Her music is released on the label she founded, Cabin 24 Records, including her latest studio album *For the Dreamers*, as well as her gold and platinum hits, "The Way I Am," "Girls Chase Boys," and "You and I."

Sonoma Guitar Series**Gaëlle Solal, guitar**

Saturday, October 24, 2026

7:30 p.m. Schroeder Hall

\$36–\$46

Daughter of music aficionados, Gaëlle Solal discovered the classical guitar at the age of five. From her early days at the Marseille Conservatoire to the Paris Conservatoire, Gaëlle's artistry has captivated hearts in over forty countries with her passionate and soulful playing.

Lyle Lovett and his Small Large Band

Thursday, October 29, 2026

7:30 p.m. Weill Hall

\$66–\$151

A singer, composer and actor, Lyle Lovett has broadened the definition of American music in a career that spans 14 albums. Coupled with his gift for storytelling, the Texas-based musician fuses elements of country, swing, jazz, folk, gospel and blues in a convention-defying manner that breaks down barriers.

Lovett's live performances show not only the breadth of this legend's deep talents, but also the diversity of his influences, making him one of the most compelling and captivating musicians in popular music.

La Santa Cecilia

Thursday, Nov 5, 2026
7:30 p.m. Weill Hall
\$31–\$81

La Santa Cecilia exemplifies the modern-day hybrid of Latin culture, rock and world music. The group draws inspiration from all over the world, utilizing Pan-American rhythms including cumbia, bossa-nova, rumba, bolero, tango, jazz and klezmer music. Their unique sounds and the experience of their passionate performances continues to captivate both loyal fans and new listeners.

Supported in part by Exchange Bank.

What You Won't Do For Love

Why Not Theatre

Written by Tara Cullis, Miriam Fernandes, Ravi Jain, David Suzuki
Sunday, November 8, 2026
3 p.m. Weill Hall
\$31–\$81

“What’s love got to do with it?” A lot, according to David Suzuki.

Internationally-renowned environmentalists David Suzuki and Tara Cullis take the stage in an intimate and inspiring theatre experience.

Honest, warm, and thought-provoking, David and Tara share captivating stories of climate activism, powerful insights from their 50-year marriage, and heartfelt moments of humor around a dinner table as they celebrate their love for each other, their love of the planet, and love’s capacity to inspire action.

**Juilliard String Quartet
with Simone Dinnerstein**

Thursday, November 19, 2026
7:30 p.m. Weill Hall
\$41–\$101

Hailed by The Boston Globe as “the most important American quartet in history,” the Juilliard String Quartet – Areta Zhulla, Leonard Fu, Molly Carr, and Astrid Schween – inspire audiences around the world. Each performance by the Juilliard String Quartet is an unparalleled artistic experience, bringing together the four members’ profound understanding, total commitment, and unceasing curiosity in sharing the wonders of the string quartet literature.

Simone Dinnerstein is an American pianist with a distinctive musical voice. *The Washington Post* has called her “an artist of strikingly original ideas and irrefutable integrity.”

Maurice Ravel: String Quartet in F major

Béla Bartók: String Quartet No. 4, Sz. 91, BB 95

Robert Schumann: Piano Quintet in E-flat major, Op. 44

Supported in part by Cartograph Wines and Oxford Suites Sonoma County.

Cherish The Ladies

A Celtic Christmas

Friday, Dec 4, 2026

7:30 p.m. Weill Hall

\$41–\$101

Cherish the Ladies is one of the world’s most celebrated Irish music ensembles, captivating audiences across the globe with their exhilarating blend of traditional Irish music, engaging vocals, and dynamic step dancing.

This holiday season, Cherish the Ladies shares their beloved Celtic Christmas program—a festive, family-friendly concert featuring their signature sound on classic carols such as “*Angels We Have Heard on High*,” “*The First Noel*,” and “*Silent Night*.” Each piece is beautifully arranged to highlight their Celtic instrumentation, harmonies, and rhythms.

Voctave

It Feels Like Christmas

Thursday, December 17, 2026

7:30 p.m. Weill Hall

\$41–\$101

Voctave’s 11-member vocal ensemble brings incredible harmonies to favorite tunes from the Disney screen to the Broadway stage. This a cappella sensation has had over 150 million social media views of their videos and has a wide vocal range of 5 full octaves. Voctave’s holiday spectacular *It Feels Like Christmas* includes holiday favorites from their chart-topping album. *Jazz Weekly* raves “Voctave brings a cappella music to a new dimension.”

San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus

Holiday Spectacular
Sunday, Dec 20, 2026
7:30 p.m. Weill Hall
\$31–\$118

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus returns to Green Music Center with its beloved *Holiday Spectacular*, a dazzling celebration of music, community, and joy. With a vibrant blend of classic favorites, fresh new sounds, and the signature SFGMC spirit that makes the season shine, this Bay-Area tradition promises an unforgettable evening that invites audiences of all ages to gather, laugh, sing, and revel together. Whatever the year brings, the Chorus promises a holiday experience filled with warmth, wonder, and plenty of sparkle.

This event is a fundraiser for Face to Face, and sells out every year, so get your tickets early.

Tickets will be available for purchase as single tickets only. This event cannot be included in any subscription.

New Century Chamber Orchestra
Daniel Hope, music director and concertmaster
Lara Downes, piano
Friday, January 29, 2027
7:30 p.m. Weill Hall
\$41–\$101

Led by Music Director and Concertmaster Daniel Hope, the New Century Chamber Orchestra is joined by acclaimed pianist Lara Downes for a program that spans classical to contemporary. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's luminous Symphony No. 29 opens the concert, followed by the Bay Area premiere of *Total Eclipse*, a new co-commission by Clarice Assad featuring Downes as soloist. After intermission, the orchestra turns to the neoclassical clarity and rhythmic vitality of Igor Stravinsky's *Apollon musagète*.

W.A. Mozart Symphony No. 29 in A, K.201

Clarice Assad *Total Eclipse* (New Century co-commission)

Igor Stravinsky *Apollon musagète*

Supported in part by Cartograph Wines.

Kenny Barron
Songbook

Thursday, February 11, 2027
7:30 p.m. Weill Hall
\$41–\$101

Selected as a 2026 Mellon Jazz Legacy Fellow, Kenny Barron has an unmatched ability to mesmerize audiences with his elegant musical style. *The Los Angeles Times* named him “one of the top jazz pianists in the world” and *Jazz Weekly* called him “the most lyrical piano player of our time.” His latest release, *Songbook*, is Barron’s first album to feature vocals throughout, a culmination of his long history of piano-voice collaborations.

Supported in part by Oxford Suites Sonoma County.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Thursday, February 18, 2027
7:30 p.m. Weill Hall
\$41–\$101

Since their formation in South Africa over 65 years ago, Ladysmith Black Mambazo has become a worldwide phenomenon, winning more GRAMMY Awards, and receiving more Grammy Award nominations, than any world music group in the history of recorded music.

During South African Apartheid, Ladysmith Black Mambazo followed a path of peaceful protest through songs of hope and love, leading Nelson Mandela to proclaim them as “South Africa’s Cultural Ambassadors to the World.”

Let Love Lead, A Celebration of Black Music

Friday, February 26, 2027
7:30 p.m. Weill Hall
\$31–\$81

Let Love Lead draws on the musical traditions that have shaped our cultural soundscape. With a repertoire of beloved songs by Nina Simone, Aretha Franklin, Donny Hathaway, and more, *Let Love Lead* offers a dynamic, feel-every-note kind of performance that uplifts the contributions of Black musical excellence, not as a genre, but as an essential and beloved force within our collective creative legacy.

Michael Davidman, piano

Saturday, February 27, 2027

3 p.m. Schroeder Hall
\$36–\$46

Michael Davidman is an accomplished pianist with training from leading institutions including the Manhattan School of Music and the Curtis Institute of Music. Recognized as a prodigy at a young age, he won the Manhattan School of Music's Precollege Concerto Competitions and was selected to perform in a masterclass with Lang Lang, who praised his technical brilliance.

He has earned major accolades including the 2025 American Piano Awards and top prizes at the Long-Thibaud International Piano Competition and the Juilliard Gina Bachauer Competition.

Mavis Staples

Friday, March 5, 2027
7:30 p.m. Weill Hall
\$51–\$111

Mavis Staples is still making music—and history—as one of the most recognizable voices in the world. She rose to fame as a member of her family's band the Staple Singers, of which she is the last surviving member. She has been inducted into several halls of fame (blues, rock, and gospel) and holds multiple GRAMMYS.

Known for her civil rights activism, her music shares powerful messages through her rhythm and blues roots and her expansive musical heritage.

Supported in part by Freeman Vineyard & Winery, Oliver's Markets, and SOMO Village.

Sonoma Guitar Series

David Russell, guitar

Saturday, March 20, 2027
7:30 p.m. Schroeder Hall
\$46–\$56

Grammy-winning guitarist David Russell returns with his trademark tone and expressive depth. Russell is a master interpreter of the classical guitar repertoire and is counted as one of the most talented classical artists in the world today.

The New York Times notes "... Mr. Russell made his mastery evident without ever deviating from an approach that places musical values above mere display. Mr. Russell possesses a talent of extraordinary dimension."

Step Afrika!

Saturday, March 27, 2027

7:30 p.m. Weill Hall

\$31–\$91

Experience the world’s leading authority on the artform of stepping. Step Afrika! blends percussive dance traditions of historically African American fraternities and sororities with traditional African dances and contemporary movement—creating a high-energy, inspiring performance for all ages. Join us for an unforgettable celebration of rhythm, culture, and community.

Supported in part by Oxford Suites Sonoma County.

Free Family Day with 123 Andrés

Saturday, April 3, 2027

1:30 p.m. Weill Hall + Grounds

Our annual family day is a bilingual celebration featuring upbeat music, children’s activities, and dance and music workshops for all ages. Enjoy favorite local artists, student performances, and engaging activities led by Sonoma State education students.

This event will feature a lively performance from Grammy Award-winners 123 Andrés – a dynamic musical duo that Billboard calls “rock stars for little language learners.” Andrés and Christina perform lively concerts in Spanish and English on stages across the US and Latin America, and are co-hosts of the award-winning PBS podcast *Jamming on the Job*.

Supported in part by Exchange Bank.

Aga Khan Master Musicians with Vincent Peirani & Vincent Ségal

Sunday, April 18, 2027

3 p.m. Weill Hall

\$31–\$91

The Aga Khan Master Musicians create music inspired by their own deep roots in the cultures of the Middle East and Mediterranean Basin, Central Asia, and China. They are venerated performers and composer-arrangers who have appeared on the world’s most prestigious stages while also sharing a belief that tradition can serve as an invaluable compass for an artistic search into new forms of creativity influenced—but not constrained—by the past.

Anthony Ray Hinton

The H. Andréa Neves and Barton Evans Social Justice Lecture Series

Tuesday, April 20, 2027

7:30 p.m. Weill Hall

\$31 General Admission

Anthony Ray Hinton survived for 30 years on Alabama's death row following a wrongful conviction. His story is a decades-long journey to exoneration and freedom. Since his release in 2015, Mr. Hinton has traveled the world sharing his story and discussing the changes that need to be made to prevent similar injustices from happening to other people. In 2018, Mr. Hinton published *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row*, which was selected for Oprah's Book Club and is a New York Times bestseller.

Dave Pietro Quintet

Saturday, April 24, 2027

7:30 p.m. Weill Hall Loft

\$36–\$56

New York–based saxophonist, composer, and educator Dave Pietro is known for his work as a member of the Grammy Award–winning Maria Schneider Orchestra and Grammy-nominated ensembles Darcy James Argue's Secret Society and the Gil Evans Project.

Pietro was lead alto saxophonist with the Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra (1994–2016), recording six albums, and has worked with Woody Herman, Lionel Hampton, Maynard Ferguson, and the Village Vanguard Jazz Orchestra. As a leader, he has released 12 albums, including *The Butterfly Effect* (2026) and *The Talisman* (2024).

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Mozart and Brahms: The Great Clarinet Quintets

Thursday, April 29, 2027

7:30 p.m. Weill Hall

\$41–\$101

This latest performance of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center features a stellar quintet of world-class musicians performing the Great Clarinet Quintets of Mozart and Brahms.

Composed a century apart and similarly inspired by virtuoso clarinetists, the Clarinet Quintets of Mozart and Brahms are among the most popular works on the chamber music stage, yet, rarely do they appear on the same program.

Program

Brahms Quintet in B minor for Clarinet, Two Violins, Viola, and Cello, Op. 115 (1891)
Mozart Quintet for Clarinet, Two Violins, Viola, and Cello in A major, K. 581 (1789)

Ethan Lipton & His Orchestra

Thursday, May 13, 2027

7:30 p.m. Weill Hall Loft

\$36–\$56

A long-time favorite of the Green Music Center staff, Ethan Lipton & his Orchestra has been working together since 2005. The band's music is steeped in 20th-Century American traditions—jazz, folk, country, blues and rock—but tackles modern subjects with urgency, humor, and a well of deep feeling. Lipton is a Guggenheim Fellow, Creative Capital grantee, and winner of the Kleban Prize for most promising American librettist.

Artist-in-residence

Beatrice Thomas

As an expansion of our engagement programs, multidisciplinary artist Beatrice Thomas will be an artist-in-residence throughout the Green Music Center's 2026-27 season.

As the founder of Authentic Arts and Media, Beatrice's work engages themes of cultural identity, racial justice, and queer visibility through performance, visual arts, and community-centered media. Beatrice will work with a number of SSU student organizations, faculty, and staff in addition to workshops with community partners during her time on campus. We're excited to work closely with a regional artist to allow for multiple connection points throughout the year, allowing a deeper integration of Thomas' work into courses and programs in many departments at SSU.

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 Department of Music, 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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