



Stanford Live Announces 2025-26 Season Programming

Season runs October 3, 2025–May 20, 2026

Season Highlights

28 Artists to make their Stanford Live Debuts

Maurice Ravel: A 150th Celebration Featuring Global Artists

Three Theater Productions Direct from Edinburgh Festival Fringe

***Hysterical* Series Featuring Top Comic Talent**

Presale for Stanford Live Members Thursday, May 8–Thursday, June 5

General on Sale Begins Friday, June 6

Tickets and information at live.stanford.edu/events/2526AmplifyingVoices

(Stanford, CA, Wednesday, May 6, 2025) - Stanford Live announces its 2025–26 season, *Amplifying Voices*, with over 60 performances at Bing Concert Hall, The Studio, Memorial Auditorium, and Memorial Church on the Stanford University campus in Stanford, CA. The new season is the first under Iris Nemani, McMurtry Family Director of Stanford Live, and will celebrate the transformative power of live performances through inspired new works, legendary artists, and exciting artistic discoveries. The season brings together artists from around the globe and across disciplines, from music and dance to theater and beyond, these powerful works reflect voices and perspectives of our time—each one offering a unique and resonant artistic experience.

“I am so excited to unveil the new Stanford Live season,” said Nemani. “Driven by the belief that art and creativity can shift culture, the 2025–2026 Stanford Live season aspires to fill our stages with artists and stories that reflect our communities. These artists will not only entertain, but also challenge, teach, and strengthen our community with their stories, their perspectives, and their passion. Together, let us inspire future generations of artistic creators, thinkers, and dreamers.”

Season Highlights:

Ravel 150th Celebration

Stanford Live embarks on a season-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Maurice Ravel featuring global virtuosos performing some of the composer's most revered scores as well as those by his contemporaries. Multiple Grammy-award winning pianist **Michelle Cann** performs a program featuring Ravel's Sonatine on October 8. Colombian cellist **Santiago Cañón-Valencia**, a BBC Next Generation Artist and Tchaikovsky Competition silver medalist, will perform Ravel's Sonate Posthume, *Pavane pour une infante défunte*, and *Vocalise-étude en forme de habanera* on October 22. Pianist **Hayato Sumino**, on October 26, will perform Ravel's *Jeux d'eau* plus *Boléro* on two pianos and two keyboards at the same time. Italian dance company **Aterballetto**, on February 11 and 12, will perform Iratxe Ansa and Igor Bacovich's *Rhapsody in Blue*, a piece which later influenced Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major. Pianist **Zee Zee** (Zhang Zuo) gives a recital on February 22 inspired by myths, fairy tales, and Romantic literature that will include Ravel's *Gaspard de la nuit* and *Ma mère l'Oye*. On March 13, soprano **Nadine Sierra** gives a recital featuring classic Italian arias by Verdi and Puccini, while the second half highlights Ravel's song cycle *Shéhérazade* alongside music of the Americas by Villa-Lobos, Gershwin, and Bernstein. Violinist **Bomsori Kim**, on April 1, brings together French and Polish violin classics including Ravel's Violin Sonata No. 2. **Jerusalem Quartet** presents a program on April 22 that includes Ravel's sole String Quartet with its memorable pizzicato second movement.

The piano takes center stage in a series of performances spanning the entire season. In addition to the pianists previously mentioned, Stanford Live welcomes acclaimed Norwegian pianist **Leif Ove Andsnes** for a recital on January 25, featuring a program centered on Central European repertoire; jazz pianist **Emmet Cohen**, on April 8, will celebrate the centennials of Miles Davis and John Coltrane who both turn 100 in 2026; and on May 10, **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** makes his Stanford Live debut to perform Debussy's complete *Préludes*.

28 Artists Making Stanford Live Debuts

The new season will present 28 performers who will be making their Stanford Live debuts. The Grammy-nominated **Danish String Quartet** joins the **Danish National Girls' Choir** on April 15 to premiere the Stanford Live co-commission by composer and Stanford alumnus David Lang, entitled *in wildness*—a work about the relationship between humans and mother earth. **Mali Obomsawin Quartet** on November 7 will make its West Coast premiere performance of the score to the 2024 National Geographic documentary and Academy Award nominee *Sugarcane*.

New Legacy Series Honoring the St. Lawrence

After nearly four decades of acclaimed performances at Stanford and around the world, the St. Lawrence String Quartet introduces the **St. Lawrence Legacy Series**. This new initiative, in partnership with Stanford Live, showcases three of today's most celebrated string quartets—ranging from legendary ensembles to rising stars and fresh competition winners. Each group will spend a week on campus in a wide-ranging residency focused on mentorship, collaboration, and community engagement, culminating in a world-class performance at Bing Concert Hall. In the 2025–26 season, the series will feature the **Viano String Quartet with acclaimed singer songwriter Vienna Teng** in a program featuring Beethoven's No. 10, Op. 74 "Harp" Quartet alongside Teng's most beloved works on October 19. The series continues on March 8, featuring the winner of the newly inaugurated St Lawrence Prize, awarded to the 1st prize winner of the 2025 Banff International String Quartet Competition (ensemble to be announced in August 2025). The series closes with the esteemed **Brentano String Quartet** on May 3, in an all-Beethoven program. Celebrated for their deep musical insight and expressive power, the Brentano delivers a fitting finale to the inaugural St. Lawrence Legacy Series.

Three Productions from Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Dance and theater programming is an integral part of the new season. **Direct from Edinburgh Festival Fringe**, Stanford Live will present three works in The Studio from the cutting-edge festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. "The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is known for bold experimentation and fearless exploration of new ideas," said Nemani. "It has a reputation for being scrappy and fast-paced, embracing innovative and, at times, unpolished performances that challenge convention. These works offer a unique opportunity to engage with current and provocative ideas in real time. By bringing them to The Studio, we invite our audiences to experience the thrill of discovery, and to connect with the pulse of the global creative landscape." ***Burnout Paradise* by Pony Cam** from November 12–15 is a delusional and physical celebration of our collective struggle to establish clear boundaries in our lives. Four performers mount four treadmills testing the limits of mind, body and spirit in an increasingly frenetic juggling act of absurdity. ***BATSHIT* by Leah Shelton**, February 4–7, is a wildly theatrical and deeply intimate story of female madness. Created by psycho-siren Leah Shelton and directed by Olivier award-winning Ursula Martinez, this is a requiem for Leah's grandmother Gwen, who was incarcerated for seeking independence in 1960s Australia. **Blind Summit's *The Sex Lives of Puppets***, February 18–21, is a multi-layered piece of theater—on the surface, offering a fun and frank exploration of puppet desire at the hands of their Dionysian puppet-masters, and on a deeper level engaging skilled puppetry to express human moods, fears, worries, hang-ups, and desires.

Contemporary Dance and Circus

Created by circus visionary Yaron Lifschitz, *Humans 2.0* by Circa on November 1 and 2 is intimate, primal, and deeply engaged with the challenge of being human. On December 5, *Dökk* blends light, sound, and movement into a breathtaking, multi-dimensional universe created by *fuse**, the Italian studio and production company that explores the creative use of digital technologies. Italian Dance Company *Aterballetto* makes its Stanford Live debut on February 11 and 12 presenting Crystal Pite's *Solo Echo*, the U.S. premiere of Diego Tortelli's *Glory Hall*, and other works.

Jazz & Blues

Stanford Live's standout jazz programming will feature up-and-coming artists and established stars. **Lucía**, winner of the 2022 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, kicks off the season on Friday, October 3. **ARTEMIS**, the all-women jazz collective led by pianist and composer Renee Rosnes with trumpeter Ingrid Jensen, saxophonist Nicole Glover, bassist Noriko Ueda, and drummer Allison Miller performs works from their new album *ARBORESQUE* on October 12. Vocalist **Stella Cole** makes her Stanford Live debut on January 18 to share her favorites from the Great American Songbook. Jazz pianist **Emmet Cohen**, on April 8, will celebrate the centennials of Miles Davis and John Coltrane who both turn 100 in 2026. Bay Area master of Latin Jazz and seven-time Grammy nominee **John Santos** brings a sextet for a program of soulful Afro-Caribbean-tinged jazz performance on April 19.

Additional Season Highlights

Additional season highlights include Pulitzer Prize-Winning Reporter for *The New York Times* **Jodi Kantor** on October 9; the Queen of Portuguese fado **Mariza** performs on November 5; **Vienna Boys Choir** makes their Stanford Live debut on November 12 to perform their diverse repertoire which includes everything from medieval to contemporary to experimental music; actor **Morgan Freeman** will be at Bing Concert Hall on November 19 to present his **Symphonic Blues Experience** that features performances by respected blues and orchestral musicians in a chamber orchestration; **Sandbox Percussion** joins **The Crossing** on February 25 for composer Harold Meltzer and poet Aracelis Girmay's *You Are Who I Love*, a new work about the undocumented immigrant experience in the United States; and Tony and Grammy Award-winner **Renée Elise Goldsberry** closes the season on May 20.

Comedy Series *Hysterical* Launches in New Season

Stanford Live's outstanding comedy series continues this season with four presentations and a new series title, *Hysterical*. Performances include **Sandra Bernhard's *Shapes and Forms***, on October 4, as she brings a completely unique and raucous mix of cabaret, stand-up, rock and roll, and social commentary; **Hairy Situation—A New Comedy Show by ALOK**, the new comedy show from

internationally acclaimed poet, comedian, public speaker, and actor **ALOK** on October 25; **Naomi Ekperigen's** on December 13; and **Marsha Warfield's *Book of Marsha*** on February 27.

Holiday Performances

Holidays at Stanford Live features inspired and festive performances during the month of December. **Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale**, on December 7, presents Corelli's Concerto grosso, Vivaldi's Gloria, the world-premiere of a new work by British baritone-turned-composer Roderick Williams and a U.S. premiere of work by Pulitzer-Prize winner Caroline Shaw. **Pink Martini** brings its "Holiday Spectacular" show on December 10. San Francisco's treasured men's vocal ensemble **Chanticleer** performs A Chanticleer Christmas at Memorial Church on December 11, and **Jazz Mafia's** Holiday Heist on December 14 presents a funky take on classic holiday tunes.

K-12 and Community Engagement

Each year, Stanford Live promotes access to the arts through a range of educational and community engagement programs designed to inspire learning, creativity, and connection.

Stanford Live's K-12 programs are open to all Bay Area schools and educators, offering teacher workshops, student matinees at Stanford Live venues, and in-school activities that cultivate artistic exploration and a lifelong appreciation for the arts. Student matinee tickets are priced at \$8 per student, with need-based scholarships available. In the 2024–25 season, nearly 50% of student matinee tickets were provided free of charge to Title I schools.

The 2025–26 season will feature five student matinee performances at Bing Concert Hall and Memorial Auditorium, including appearances by the all-female jazz ensemble Artemis, contemporary circus company Circa, Italian digital art studio fuse*, pianist Zee Zee, and jazz ensemble the John Santos Sextet. For more information and to register, visit live.stanford.edu/k12.

In addition, Stanford Live provides unique opportunities for Stanford students to engage directly with world-class artists through masterclasses offered throughout the season. Select masterclasses are also free and open to the public. Upcoming public masterclasses for the 2025–26 season include sessions with pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, soprano Nadine Sierra, and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet.

Stanford Live 2025-26 Performance Schedule

All performances at Bing Concert Hall, The Studio, Memorial Auditorium, and Memorial Church on the Stanford University campus in Stanford, CA.

TICKET INFORMATION

All programs subject to change. For pricing, availability, and added shows, visit live.stanford.edu.

On Sale dates

Bing Circle Members Presale - May 8

Partner+ Members Presale - May 27

Advocate + Members Presale - May 30

Supporter + Members Presale - June 3

Public On Sale - June 6

How To Order

Online - live.stanford.edu

Phone - 650.724.2464

In Person - Stanford Live Ticket Office, 327 Lasuen Street, Stanford, CA 94305

Ticket Office hours - Tuesday–Friday` 12:00 PM–5:00 PM

The Ticket Office opens 60 minutes prior to performance on performance days.

2025-2026 SEASON CALENDAR

Lucía

Friday, October 3, 7:00 PM, The Studio

Hysterical: Sandra Bernhard *Shapes & Forms*

Saturday, October 4, 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM, Memorial Auditorium

Rosanne Cash with John Levanthal

Sunday, October 5, 4:00 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Michelle Cann

Wednesday, October 8, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

What She Said: A Conversation with Jodi Kantor

Thursday, October 9, 6:00 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Artemis: ARBORESQUE

Sunday, October 12, 4:00 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Santiago Cañón Valencia

Wednesday, October 22, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Hysterical: Hairy Situation—A New Comedy Show by ALOK

Saturday, October 25, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Hayato Sumino

Sunday, October 26, 2:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Humans 2.0 by Circa

Saturday, November 1 & Sunday, November 2, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Mariza

Wednesday, November 5, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

SUGARCANE Featuring the Mali Obomsawin Quartet

Friday, November 7, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Rob Kapilow: *What Makes It Great? Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition*

Sunday, November 9, 2:30 PM Bing Concert Hall

Vienna Boys Choir: Johann Strauss Waltzes and Polkas

Wednesday, November 12, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Burnout Paradise by Pony Cam

November 12–15, The Studio, 7:00 PM

Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience

Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Dökk by fuse*

Friday, December 5, 7:30 PM, Memorial Auditorium

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale Vivaldi's Gloria

Sunday, December 7, 2:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Pink Martini's Holiday Spectacular

Wednesday, December 10, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

A Chanticleer Christmas

Thursday, December 11, 7:00 PM, Memorial Church

Hysterical: Naomi Ekperigin

Saturday, December 13, 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM, The Studio

Jazz Mafia: Holiday Heist

Sunday, December 14, 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM, The Studio

Stella Cole

Sunday, January 18, 4:00 PM, Bing Concert Hall

***Enlighten Me* New Century Chamber Orchestra with Simone Porter**

Friday, January 23, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Leif Ove Andsnes

Sunday, January 25, 2:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

***BATSHIT* by Leah Shelton**

Wednesday, February 4 - Saturday, February 7, The Studio

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale *Baroque Garlands*

Sunday, February 8, 1:00 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Aterballetto

Wednesday, February 11 & Thursday, February 12, 7:30 PM, Memorial Auditorium

***The Sex Lives of Puppets* by Blind Summit**

Wednesday, February 18—Friday, February 20, 7:00 PM, Saturday, February 21, 2:00 PM & 7:00pm, The Studio

Rob Kapilow: *What Makes It Great?* Ella Fitzgerald & Oscar Peterson: Standards by Jazz Legends

Saturday, February 21, 2:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Zee Zee

Sunday, February 22, 2:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

***You Are Who I Love* with The Crossing and Sandbox Percussion**

Wednesday, February 25, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Hysterical: Marsha Warfield Book of Marsha

Friday, February 27, 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM, The Studio

Nadine Sierra

Friday, March 13, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale *Pearls of Sorrow*

Sunday, March 15, 2:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Bomsori Kim

Wednesday, April 1, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Emmet Cohen: Miles and Coltrane at 100

Wednesday, April 8, Bing Concert Hall

Danish String Quartet & Danish National Girls' Choir

Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

John Santos Sextet & Friends

Saturday, April 19, 4:00 PMpm, Bing Concert Hall

Jerusalem Quartet

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Bing Fling: Angélique Kidjo

Saturday, April 25, 8:00 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Jean-Yves Thibaudet

Sunday, May 10, 2:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

Renée Elise Goldsberry

Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 PM, Bing Concert Hall

About Stanford Live

Stanford Live presents a wide range of the finest performances from around the world, fostering a vibrant learning community and providing distinctive experiences through the performing arts. With its home at Bing Concert Hall, The Studio, and Frost Amphitheater, Stanford Live draws on the breadth and depth of Stanford University to connect performance to the significant issues, ideas, and discoveries of our time.

Stanford Live includes a wealth of collaborators and partners, including Stanford academic departments and individual faculty members, Stanford students, off-campus arts institutions, and community organizations. Crucially, Stanford Live supports the university's focus on placing the arts at the heart of a Stanford education.

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