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[Download a photo of Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood here](#)

[Download a photo of TAIKOPROJECT “Benzaiten” here](#)

[Download a photo of Stacey Kent here](#)

[Download a photo of Ailey II here](#)

[Download a photo of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* here](#)

Other photos available upon request

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE LISA SMITH WENGLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

announces its

2021–2022 PERFORMANCES

Celebrated jazz singer **Stacey Kent**, *America's Got Talent* finalist **Catapult**, ukulele virtuoso **Jake Shimabukuro**, founder of the Byrds **Roger McGuinn**, and *Whose Line is it Anyway?* stars **Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood** are just a few of the artists set to appear at the Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts at Pepperdine University during its 2021–2022 season.

Among the musicians and bands coming to Pepperdine's Malibu campus are GRAMMY-nominated Songwriters Hall of Fame member **JD Souther**; Juno Award–winning indie group the **Wailin' Jennys**; MacArthur fellow and GRAMMY Award-winning mandolin musician **Chris Thile**; Jim Croce musical homage **Croce Plays Croce**; Blues Hall of Fame legend the **Robert Cray Band**; harmonious a cappella group **Take 6**; iconic jazz ensemble the **Four Freshmen**; American indie band the **Weepies** and renowned vocalist **Joan Osborne**; Juno–nominated folk band **Dala**; female jazz group **Bessie, Billie and Nina: Pioneering Women in Jazz**; brilliant tunesmith **Marc Cohn**; and the West Coast premiere of Stewart Copeland's first oratorio, **Satan's Fall**.

Featuring dancers who are "among America's best" (*New York Times*), Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet **BalletX** kicks off the season's dance and spectacle offerings, which includes acrobatic troupe **Cirque Mechanics**, dynamic drum group **TAIKOPROJECT**, musical movement duo **Collision of Rhythm**, modern American dance group **Ailey II**, and enchanting puppet performance **The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Classics**.

The Stars of Stage and Screen series includes multimedia musical performance **Jenny Scheinman in *Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait***, multi-instrumental cartoon comedy show the **Queen's Cartoonists**, and musical theatre hits in **On Broadway**.

The Recital Series, featuring the talents of young classical musicians, includes performances by violinist **Geneva Lewis**, cellist **Gabriel Martins**, pianist **Tony Yun**, and violinist **Benjamin Baker**.

"It's my pleasure to announce our new season at the Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts. Each year, we present an innovative, unique, entertaining, and diverse program of exceptional performances. The 2021–2022 season will include several returning favorites as well as many new-to-Pepperdine performances," says Rebecca Carson, Managing Director of the Center for the Arts. "After a long, challenging year, we are excited to welcome our patrons back as we resume live performances. Now more than ever, we need the joy, wonder, and delight of the arts."

Season subscription packages are now on sale; subscribers (those who purchase tickets to four or more shows) will have exclusive access to tickets until individual tickets go on sale on Monday, August 30. Subscribers receive a 10 percent discount on the best seats, exchanges without fees, and early access to tickets.

Tickets may be purchased by calling our Box Office at (310) 506-4522 from noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and two hours prior to curtain time. Tickets to all events are also available online at: arts.pepperdine.edu/tickets/

The Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts at Pepperdine University provides high-quality activities for over 55,000 people from over 1,000 zip codes annually through performances, rehearsals, museum exhibitions, and master classes. Located on Pepperdine's breathtaking Malibu campus overlooking the Pacific, the center serves as a hub for the arts, uniquely linking professional guest artists with Pepperdine students as well as patrons from surrounding Southern California communities. Facilities include the 450-seat Smothers Theatre, the 118-seat Raitt Recital Hall, the "black box" Helen E. Lindhurst Theatre, and the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art.

The Center for the Arts is located on the Pepperdine University campus at 24255 Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, CA. Parking is available during performances next to Smothers Theatre for a

fee and in the Theme Tower lot with shuttle service at no charge. All programs and artists are subject to change.

For more information about these and other Center for the Arts performances and exhibitions, visit: arts.pepperdine.edu. For information about current health and safety protocols at the Center for the Arts, visit: arts.pepperdine.edu/visit/

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS 2021–2022 SEASON

Jake Shimabukuro

Sponsored by The Flamminio Family

In little more than a decade of recording music and playing sold-out shows worldwide, Jake Shimabukuro has already redefined the ukulele. In his hands this diminutive Hawaiian instrument becomes a complex and bold new musical force.

Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 8 PM

Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 8 PM

\$25–\$55

Smothers Theatre

Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood

The Scared Scriptless Tour

Whose Line Is It Anyway? stars Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood have teamed up to present an extraordinary evening of live improvisational comedy. Get ready for a night of nonstop laughter that's "consistently funny and occasionally breathtaking" (*Dallas Morning News*) as the two make up original scenes, songs, and more based on audience participation.

Friday, September 24, 2021, 7 PM and 9:30 PM

\$40–\$70

Smothers Theatre

An Evening with JD Souther

Sponsored by Ellen and Doug Weitman

GRAMMY-nominated JD Souther has penned countless hits for the Eagles, Linda Ronstadt, Roy Orbison, James Taylor, Don Henley, George Strait, Trisha Yearwood, and Brooks & Dunn, and found success as a solo artist. This led him to being inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2013 and becoming one of the most celebrated songwriters of his generation.

Thursday, October 7, 2021, 8 PM

\$20–\$45

Smothers Theatre

The Wailin' Jennys

Juno Award winners and frequent guests on the iconic radio program *A Prairie Home Companion*, the Wailin' Jennys are "the darlings of the North American roots music arena" (*Toronto Star*), with three distinct voices that combine to make an achingly perfect vocal sound.

Friday, October 8, 2021, 8 PM

\$30–\$60

Smothers Theatre

BalletX

As Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet, whose dancers are "among America's best" (*New York Times*), BalletX expands the vocabulary of classical dance. Committed to producing works that cultivate audiences' collective appetite for bold, new dance, BalletX has been hailed as a "place of choreographic innovation" (*The New Yorker*).

Thursday, October 14, 2021, 8 PM

\$25–\$50

Smothers Theatre

Catapult

An *America's Got Talent* finalist, Catapult features incredible dancers who work behind a screen to create shadow silhouettes of shapes from the world around us. Catapult's dancers stretch their bodies and audience's imaginations, telling stories with humor and pathos through their incredible artistry.

Saturday, October 16, 2021, 7:30 PM

\$22–\$50

\$22 for youth 17 and under

Smothers Theatre

Chris Thile

A mandolin virtuoso, composer, and vocalist, Chris Thile is a multiple GRAMMY Award-winner and MacArthur Fellow, and a member of Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek. With his broad outlook, Thile is a "genre-defying musical genius" (*NPR*), creating a distinctly American canon and a new musical aesthetic for performers and audiences alike.

Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 8 PM

\$37.50–\$75

Smothers Theatre

Croce Plays Croce

A.J. Croce performs *Croce Plays Croce*, an homage to the legacy of his late father, singer-songwriter Jim Croce. A.J. sings his father's timeless songs such as "Operator," "You Don't Mess Around with Jim," and "Time in a Bottle" (a song written for A.J.). A.J. speaks on his musical connection to his father, painting a picture for the audience of family, artistry, and memory.

Friday, October 22, 2021, 8 PM

\$25–\$50

Smothers Theatre

The Robert Cray Band

In his more than 45-year career, Robert Cray has been bridging the lines between blues, soul, and R&B, and his music arrives today both fresh and familiar. His unique sound has garnered him five GRAMMYS, a spot in the Blues Hall of Fame, and a suitcase full of Blues Music Awards.

Saturday, October 23, 2021, 8 PM

\$35–\$75

Smothers Theatre

Cirque Mechanics: *Birdhouse Factory*

Cirque Mechanics' *Birdhouse Factory* is a place where acrobatics and 20th-century machines come together. Set in a 1930s Depression-era widget factory transformed by the resourcefulness and creativity of the American worker, *Birdhouse Factory* is an artful story of laughter, love, and flight that's "exceptional, evocative . . . and engrossingly entertaining" (*New York Times*).

Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 7:30 PM

\$22.50–\$50

\$22.50 for youth 17 and under

Smothers Theatre

Geneva Lewis, violin

New Zealand-born violinist Geneva Lewis has forged a reputation as a musician of consummate artistry whose performances speak from and to the heart. Hailed by conductor Nic McGegan as "a name to watch," Lewis is the recipient of a 2021 Avery Fisher Career Grant and winner of the Grand Prize at the 2020 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition.

Sunday, December 5, 2021, 2 PM

\$28

Raitt Recital Hall

Save 20% on the Recital Series: \$88 for all four performances

Take 6 Christmas

One of the most pioneering and influential contemporary Christian a cappella groups of all time, Take 6 mixes elements of R&B, jazz, gospel, and doo-wop. Over the course of their 40-year career, the group has won 10 GRAMMYs, 10 Dove Awards, one Soul Train Award, and recognition in the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 8 PM

\$25–\$50

Smothers Theatre

TAIKOPROJECT “Benzaiten”

A dynamic contemporary blend of taiko, music, storytelling, and choreography, TAIKOPROJECT unites ancient Japanese tradition with 21st-century American innovation in pure “drum nirvana” (*Fresno Bee*). Inspired by Benzaiten, the Japanese goddess of everything that flows, their new concert combines percussive power and strength with consummate grace and movement.

Friday, January 14, 2022, 7:30 PM

\$20–\$40

\$20 for youth 17 and under

Smothers Theatre

Jenny Scheinman in *Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait*

Acclaimed composer and violinist Jenny Scheinman invites audiences to experience the sights and sounds of the Great Depression in the multimedia performance *Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait*. Filmmaker H. Lee Waters documented more than 118 small towns in the southeastern United States between 1936 and 1942. Scheinman’s original live soundtrack helps bring Waters’ footage to life in a beautiful melding of music and film.

Friday, January 21, 2022, 8 PM

\$20–\$40

Smothers Theatre

The Four Freshmen

Sponsored by Anne Marie and Mitch Bredefeld

Since their inception in 1948, the Four Freshmen have continued to tour worldwide with their unique blend of harmonic jazz arrangements and big band vocal group sounds. The ensemble has “endured for the simple reason that they are top in their class” (CBS).

Sunday, January 23, 2022, 2 PM

\$25–\$55

Smothers Theatre

Joan Osborne/The Weepies

On the strength of the Weepies’ simple yet insightful songwriting and distinctive harmonies, this American indie band has sold more than 1.5 million records and has amassed over 54 million streams on Spotify.

As both a passionate performer and an emotionally evocative songwriter, Joan Osborne has rightfully earned a reputation as one of the great voices of her generation. A seven-time GRAMMY-nominee, Osborne is a highly sought-after collaborator who has performed alongside many notable artists, including Stevie Wonder, Bob Dylan, and Mavis Staples.

Together, these artists join forces for an intimate evening of music.

Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 8 PM

\$22.50–\$50

Smothers Theatre

The Queen’s Cartoonists

The Queen’s Cartoonists play live music from various cartoons, which are synchronized to video projections of the original films, as the band leads the audience through a world of multi-instrumental comedy and mayhem. Expect the unexpected from a repertoire that includes the golden age of animation, cult cartoon classics, modern animation, and elements of a musical circus!

Friday, January 28, 2022, 7:30 PM

\$20–\$40

\$20 for youth 17 and under

Smothers Theatre

Collision of Rhythm

Collision of Rhythm is a duo composed of tap-dancing classical virtuoso Aaron Williams and beatbox-juggling keynote speaker Bronkar Lee. With drumming, rhythmic juggling, marimba, and so much more, Collision of Rhythm has been described as *Stomp* meets Blue Man Group meets Cirque du Soleil in a show that’s captivating, inspiring, and flat-out extraordinary.

Sunday, January 30, 2022, 3 PM

\$20–\$40

\$20 for youth 17 and under

Smothers Theatre

Gabriel Martins, cello

Gabriel Martins is the winner of the 2020 Concert Artists Guild/Young Classical Artists Trust Grand Prize and the 2020 Sphinx Competition. Martins has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in venues around the world, and he exhibits "heart, passion, and a finely-nuanced palette of colors in a compelling manner worthy of a seasoned artist." (Ralph Kirshbaum)

Sunday, January 30, 2022, 2 PM

\$28

Raitt Recital Hall

Save 20% on the Recital Series: \$88 for all four performances

Dala

Juno nominees and winners of the 2010 Canadian Folk Music Award for Vocal Group of the Year, Amanda Walther and Sheila Carabine of Dala have released five albums and toured extensively across North America. Drawing upon influences like the Beatles, Joni Mitchell, and Neil Young, Dala's catchy songs and lush harmonies have made them darlings of the indie music scene.

Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 8 PM

\$15–\$35

Smothers Theatre

On Broadway

Featuring the best songs from the current New York City theatre season and sung by Broadway stars with a live band, *On Broadway* is an unforgettable night of music! The show includes hits from long-running favorites like *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Chicago*, and *The Book of Mormon*, as well as the newest sensations *Wicked*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, and even the sold-out smash, *Hamilton*! *Cast to be announced later this season.*

Thursday, February 3, 2022, 8 PM

\$22–\$50

Smothers Theatre

Ailey II

As a part of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Ailey II continues the legacy of its founder Alvin Ailey by celebrating the American modern dance heritage and preserving the uniqueness of the African American cultural experience. Universally renowned for their “dynamic movement and dazzling technique” (*Broadway Dance World*), the members of Ailey II are “spectacular human beings” (*New York Times*).

Thursday, March 3, 2022, 8 PM

\$22.50–\$50

Smothers Theatre

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia Presents

***The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and Other Eric Carle Classics**

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia captures the magic of author Eric Carle’s timeless book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, along with two of his other children’s stories, *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Did You See?*, in this special triple-bill production. With enchanting puppetry, striking scenic effects, and evocative original music, this magical program will ignite young audiences’ excitement for reading.

Saturday, March 5, 2022, 11 AM and 1 PM

\$10–\$18

\$10 for youth 17 and under

Smothers Theatre

Stacey Kent

Stacey Kent is a jazz singer in the mold of the greats, with a legion of fans worldwide, a host of honors and awards including a GRAMMY nomination, album sales in excess of 2 million, and gold, double-gold and platinum-selling albums that have reached a series of #1 chart positions during the span of her career.

Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 8 PM

\$27.50–\$60

Smothers Theatre

Tony Yun, piano

Pianist Tony Yun is the First Prize winner and Gold Medalist at the First China International Music Competition and a recipient of the Jerome L. Greene Fellowship at the Juilliard School. With playing that combines poetry and elegance, Yun has given recitals throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, including the Juilliard School, New York’s Steinway Hall and at the Heidelberger Frühling Music Festival.

Sunday, March 13, 2022, 2 PM

\$28

Raitt Recital Hall

Save 20% on the Recital Series: \$88 for all four performances

Bessie, Billie and Nina: Pioneering Women in Jazz

The musical and social legacies of Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, and Nina Simone remain as relevant as ever. Featuring three dynamic vocalists (Charenée Wade, Camille Thurman, and Tahira Clayton) backed by an all-female band, *Bessie, Billie and Nina* celebrates the enduring legacy of these three iconic artists with performances of their classic songs, including Bessie Smith's "Downhearted Blues," Billie Holiday's "Strange Fruit," and more.

Thursday, March 24, 2022, 8 PM

\$20–\$45

Smothers Theatre

Benjamin Baker, violin

Violinist Benjamin Baker won first prize at the 2016 Young Concert Artists International Auditions and third prize at the Michael Hill Competition in New Zealand in 2017. He demonstrates "virtuosity, refinement, and youthful exuberance" (*New York Times*) in his music and has performed as a soloist with London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra, the National Children's Orchestra in Manchester, and more.

Sunday, April 3, 2022, 2 PM

\$28

Raitt Recital Hall

Save 20% on the Recital Series: \$88 for all four performances

Marc Cohn

After winning a GRAMMY for his soulful ballad "Walking in Memphis," Marc Cohn solidified his place as one of this generation's most compelling singer-songwriters, combining the precision of a brilliant tunesmith with the passion of a great soul man. A natural storyteller, he is regarded as "one of the honest, emotional voices [of] this decade" (*TIME*).

Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 8 PM

\$22.50–\$50

Smothers Theatre

Satan's Fall

An Oratorio by Stewart Copeland

West Coast Premiere

Performed by the Pepperdine Chamber Choir and the Pepperdine Pickford Ensemble under the direction of Ryan Board and N. Lincoln Hanks

Sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Pepperdine Cross-School Collaborative Research Program

Stewart Copeland, GRAMMY Award-winning founder of the rock band the Police, presents the West Coast premiere of his first oratorio, *Satan's Fall*. Inspired by John Milton's 17th-century epic poem *Paradise Lost*, Copeland turns the literary struggle between God and Satan into a large-scale work featuring a chorus, seven vocal soloists, and chamber orchestra.

Saturday, April 23, 2022, 7:30 PM

\$20–\$40

Smothers Theatre

Roger McGuinn

As the founder of the Byrds, Roger McGuinn is an indisputable music icon who delivers a mesmerizing evening of story and song. From his signature 12-string Rickenbacker sound, to his instantly recognizable vocals on hits like “Turn, Turn, Turn,” “Eight Miles High,” and “Mr. Tambourine Man,” McGuinn didn't just make music—he made history.

Monday, April 25, 2022, 8 PM

\$25–\$55

Smothers Theatre

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