

# CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE AT UCLA

Press Release

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## CAP UCLA Presents Butler, Bernstein & The Hot 9 at Royce Hall *plus New York 'dhol and brass' ensemble Red Baraat to open the evening*



Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA is proud to present 'Mardi Gras Bhangra,' an explosive evening bursting with talent, and a pre-party to kick things off. New Orleans piano legend **Henry Butler**, trumpet virtuoso **Steven Bernstein** and their collaborative group **The Hot 9** will play re-imagined standards as well as exciting improvisations. Brooklyn-based **Red Baraat**, hailed by NPR as "one of the best party bands in years" provides the opening set. The party starts on the Royce Terrace, however, with a Mardi Gras crawfish boil at 6:30, so be sure to join us early. Tickets (\$19-\$49) for Tuesday, February 9 at 8 p.m. are available now at [cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu), via Ticketmaster and at the UCLA Central Ticket Office at 310.825.2101.

### ABOUT BUTLER, BERNSTEIN & THE HOT 9

This performance proves the power of perfectly matched musical sensibilities—that of the New Orleans singer/pianist **Henry Butler** and trumpeter/arranger **Steven Bernstein**--two students of early jazz with decidedly modern voices. Bringing in a New Orleans rhythm section with **Herlin Riley** on drums and **Reginald Veal** on acoustic bass, Butler, Bernstein & The Hot 9 was realized.

Blind since birth, Henry Butler tells stories through the rise, swing, and rumble of his fingers as they channel sounds as diverse as his Louisiana birthplace: jazz, Caribbean, classical, pop, blues and R&B, among others. A giant among giants, he is a member of a special brotherhood that also includes Professor Longhair, James Booker and Allen Toussaint. His technical ability and expansive repertoire are legendary.

A veteran of New York City's downtown scene and a Grammy-winning arranger, Steven Bernstein juggles a forward-looking perspective with a rooted sense of what's come before. Known for his work with The Lounge Lizards and Sexmob, he's also the leader of the Millennial Territory Orchestra, a nine-piece ensemble that draws tunes and inspiration from the dance orchestras that toured the U.S. before World War II.

Though historical explorers they may be; neither Butler nor Bernstein can avoid incorporating the most modern and freer edge of today's jazz expression into their music. Each has found ways of balancing past and future in their respective musical signatures. Their collaborative album, *Viper's Drag*, was released to rave reviews July 2014. The music that Butler, Bernstein, and the Hot 9 have created together is filled with modern flavors, agile arrangements and a vitality that never allows the historical focus to limit itself to mere recreation.

## **ABOUT RED BARAAT**

Formed in 2008, Red Baraat is a pioneering eight-piece band from Brooklyn, New York. The ensemble was conceived by Sunny Jain, who first made a name for himself as a rising star in the jazz world awarded the designation of Jazz Ambassador by the U.S. Department of State and the Kennedy Center. Red Baraat has drawn worldwide praise for its singular sound—a merging of hard driving North Indian bhangra rhythms with elements of jazz, go-go, brass funk, and hip-hop.

Red Baraat performed their own TED Talk at the flagship TED Conference in 2012, in front of a dancing audience of thought leaders including Al Gore, Matt Groening, and David Byrne. They accepted an invitation to the White House where an assembly of elected and business leaders—expecting a string quartet—was treated to a full throttle bhangra thrown-down. They were also handpicked to close the London 2012 Paralympic Games in the center of Trafalgar Square.

But even as it's clear that Red Baraat is building a startling history of performances in iconic settings, the band's bread and butter remains the sweaty clubs, festivals, packed performing arts centers, and college auditoriums that have kept the band on the road all over the world for nearly 200 dates a year. It's here where the band does what it does best: communing with their audience in a joyful, near hedonistic celebration of music and dance, which tellingly, draws a crowd even more diverse than the players on stage.

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

General tickets are available at [cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu), all Ticketmaster outlets, by phone at 310.825.2101 or in person at the UCLA Central Ticket Office on campus. Student rush tickets, subject to availability, are offered at \$15 one hour before show time to all students with valid ID.

**PRESS REVIEW TICKETS/PHOTO PASSES/INTERVIEW REQUESTS:** Contact Ashley Eckenweiler at [ashley@theaceagency.com](mailto:ashley@theaceagency.com)

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