



Photo by Arthur Gevorgyan

MVF Band

Thu, Feb 23, 2023 at 8 pm
Royce Hall

**CENTER
FOR THE ART OF
PERFORMANCE
UCLA**

Welcome

TO THE 2022-23 SEASON

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) is dedicated to the advancement of the contemporary performing arts in all disciplines — dance, music, spoken word and theater, as well as emerging digital, collaborative and cross cultural platforms — by leading artists from around the globe.

Our mission aligns with UCLA's mission of education, research and civic engagement by providing cultural and experiential programs that provoke inquiry and facilitate connection and creativity.

cap.ucla.edu





Photo by Miqayel Petrosyan

CAP UCLA Presents

MVF Band

Thursday, February 23 at 8 pm
Royce Hall

Program duration: 90 minutes
No intermission

MVF Band is part of Center Stage, a public diplomacy initiative of the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs with funding provided by the US government, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts in cooperation with the US Regional Arts Organizations. General management is provided by Lisa Booth Management Inc.



UCLA



Miqayel Voskanyan: Tar and Vocal
Davit Melkonyan: Alto/Soprano Saxophones
Arman Peshtmaljyan: Keyboards
Gurgen Ghazaryan: Bass
Movses Ghazaryan: Drums

MVF Band is produced and managed by Oberton, Lusine Voskanyan, principal
Communications Manager: Tatev Mkrtumyan
Stream *Nightology* on these platforms streamlink.to/NightologyAlbum

MVF Band is on tour in the U.S. as part of Center Stage, a cultural diplomacy program that has hosted performing artists from abroad in the United States since 2012. To date, 35 groups from around the world have made month-long national tours. In calendar year 2023, 11 ensembles from Armenia, Argentina, Ethiopia, the Philippines, and South Africa will meet and share their work from coast to coast. As hosted by colleges and universities, festivals, music clubs, and cultural centers, Center Stage ensembles reach large cities and small towns. They engage with communities onstage, offstage, and online through performances, workshops, and discussions, artist-to-artist exchanges, master classes, and community gatherings, and return home to share these experiences with peers and fans.

Center Stage: CenterStageUS.org
Producer: New England Foundation for the Arts
Adrienne Petrillo, Meghan Kuschner

General Manager: Lisa Booth Management, Inc.
Deirdre Valente, Lisa Booth

Production Manager: Robert W. Henderson, Jr.
Tour Advance: Aketzali Vazquez
On Tour Company Manager: Theresa L Teague

Center Stage is a public diplomacy initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs with funding provided by the U.S. Government, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts in cooperation with the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations. General management is provided by Lisa Booth Management, Inc.
CenterStageUS.org

About MVF Band

Based in Yerevan, Armenia's capital city, MVF Band (Miqayel Voskanyan and Friends) has made music together for nearly a decade. Centering the 11-string long-necked tar, the quintet draws on polyphonic roots, global rhythms, funk and jazz's tight grooves and improvisational play.

Known for intertwining ancient folk idioms with progressive arrangements and its original compositions, MVF Band challenges conventional thinking about the cross-pollination of Eastern and Western sounds and genres.

Says Voskanyan about the quintet's work: "We weave together jazz ideas of improvisation, harmonic complexity, and ensemble fluidity with the musical tensions, melodies, and perspectives that distinguish Armenian folk music. We're music makers in a modern world, creating original compositions that are a new Armenian sound."

MVF Band's 2023 U.S. tour makes stops in Washington, DC; Baltimore, MD; Los Angeles, CA; Albuquerque and Santa Fe, NM; and New York City, NY.

This performance will include tracks from MVF Band's second studio album, *Nightology*, (Overton Records) which was released on December 31, 2022. This conceptual album tells a musical story about a long but magical night.

About *Nightology*

Once upon a time, there was a land that no one could find on the map.

People here were living a happy but lost life — they had forgotten who they were and couldn't understand either themselves or the world. They were always curious to see beyond, look down at their land from a bird's eye view and finally find out what their land is on the map. Sometimes, they would even envy the birds for this.

Little did they know that instead of seeing beyond, they actually needed to see through, and instead of looking out, they needed to look inside and explore what's rooted and grounded within them. The birds were wise, they knew about this but couldn't explain it to the people — they wouldn't understand their language.

Until one long night, when all the people and all the birds were asleep, a nightingale — the most astonishing one among the birds with its compelling voice and rich repertoire, stayed up longer. It flew around all the houses, singing to the windows of people trying all its different tones of voices hoping to touch their hearts and help them remember and understand. When it was almost losing hope, it heard familiar voices from a house in the far.

A group of five friends were singing and playing at the fireplace of a cottage. Noticing the nightingale, they let it inside, warmed it up and started playing and singing together with the bird. Excited that it could find someone who would understand its indigenous language and translate its magical sounds into music, the nightingale sang about everything it knew about the world and the people of this land and told the wisdom of how to remember who they were.

This night took the longest. The Sun waited until the friends finished. When they were ready, they went out and faced a big crowd of people who went outside — they were worried about the unusually long night and thought the Sun wouldn't rise again. They walked into the crowd, stood firm on the ground, and started playing and translating the wisdom of the nightingale. The waves and beats of their music intermingled with the slowly rising rays of the long-awaited sun creating an audio-visual apparition. This aural musical vision left them speechless and with this, they suddenly could understand.

It took a never-ending night and ballad of *Nightology* to finally understand the world by recognizing themselves. Awakened in darkness, they realized that the only way out is through.



Photo by Arthur Gevorgyan



FRI, MAR 3 AT 8 PM
SAT, MAR 4 AT 8 PM

Shamel Pitts | TRIBE ***Touch of RED***

Freud Playhouse

2020 Guggenheim Fellow, performance artist, choreographer and dancer Shamel Pitts brings to the stage *Touch of RED*, a new evening-length duet of two men inside of a contemporary ring. This newest work in Pitts' "RED Series" investigates how Black men can allow themselves to soften despite extreme pressure and heat.

"Pitts and Fredericks bring their radical vulnerability to the audience" — *Fjord Review*

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Art in Action

Art in Action is CAP UCLA's free, public engagement program, where artists, educators, students and audiences come together to do stuff, make stuff and share ideas. It's how CAP UCLA shares viewpoints and creative practices around the themes explored by artists in the current season.



Put your Art into Action.

Always free! Always fun!

Design for Sharing (DFS)



Each year, Design for Sharing (DFS) brings thousands of K-12 public school students from across Los Angeles to CAP UCLA venues for free performances and interactive workshops with professional artists.

DFS programs are open to any public school in greater Los Angeles, and are always free to attend.

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UCLA Nimoy Theater

CAP UCLA is building a new home for live performance in Westwood!

Located near the UCLA campus on Westwood Boulevard, The Nimoy is a reimagining of the historic Crest Theatre as a flexible, state-of-the-art performance space.

This dynamic and intimately scaled venue will immerse audiences in a profoundly engaging experience of live performance — while providing contemporary performing artists from Los Angeles and around the world expanded opportunities to develop and present new work.

Opening fall 2023



There is no room for racism, intolerance, or inequity.

Anywhere

Not on our stages, in our offices, on our loading docks, in the box office lines, or on the dance floor.

With anyone

Not with our staff, crew, artists, volunteers, ushers, audiences or fans.

We uphold and embrace principles of antiracism, equity, diversity and **AUTHENTIC** inclusion as integral to our mission.

We must **EMPOWER** the historically underrepresented.

We must **UPLIFT** excluded voices.

We must **RESIST** structural racism.

We will **COMMIT** fiercely to our responsibility to observe, absorb, consider, contemplate, endure, share and engage in this change.

We **STAND AGAINST** all forms of discrimination.

We will **STRIVE** to make our organization more equitable and inclusive.

As part of UCLA's School of Art & Architecture (SOAA), we — UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) and Theater Management Services (TMS) — are committed to connecting and creating space for the arts and for all communities.

We acknowledge our organizations' histories as being predominantly white institutions. We are facing uncomfortable truths about systemic racism as we work to make the deep changes necessary to transform the organizational dynamics in our work culture and business practices and dismantle existing oppressive structures. We know there will be shortcomings, which we will face head on. We commit to continually addressing and adapting to changes as they arise. It is only in an improved, supportive work environment that everyone can be fully present, and respected as their true authentic selves.

This statement was drafted by a committee of staff members from both the Center for the Art of Performance and Theater Management Services, from a variety of backgrounds, viewpoints and perspectives.



Together we stand with UCLA's School of Art and Architecture's EDI statement.

CAP UCLA Council Leadership

CAP UCLA Executive Producer Council

The Executive Producer Council is CAP UCLA's philanthropic leadership group, which develops and contributes resources vital to CAP UCLA's programming and mission. The Council champions the creative development and presentation of live programs and public dialogue with contemporary performing artists by providing direct support for CAP UCLA's annual programming. The Council is engaged in dialogue about the artistic and curatorial practices that inform annual programs, long-term initiatives and collaborative planning efforts which stand at the heart of CAP UCLA's mission and public purpose.

Design for Sharing (DFS) Council

The Design for Sharing Council is a group of dedicated supporters whose efforts help to resource the K-12 arts education programs of DFS.

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CAP UCLA Staff

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Co-Interim Director/Deputy Director and Program Manager: Fred Frumberg
Co-Interim Director/Director of Education and Special Initiatives: Meryl Friedman
Production Manager: Bozkurt "Bozzy" Karasu
Artist Liaison Manager: Zarina Rico

Marketing and Communications

Director of Marketing and Communications: Bahareh Ebrahimzadeh
Marketing Coordinator: Elvis Harold
Marketing Associate: Helene Griffin

Development

Manager of Institutional Giving: Erika Herran

Education

Director of Education & Special Initiatives: Meryl Friedman
Education Program Coordinator: Theresa Willis Peters
Student Arts Coordinator: Theo Bonner-Perkins

Financial Management

Manager of Finance and Accounts: Stephanie Tarvyd
Finance Analyst: Jodi Klein
Finance Analyst: Ayesha Bulegoda

Human Resources

Human Resources Manager: Bernie Macapinlac
Human Resources Assistant: Erah Lulu

Ticketing

Assistant Director Central Ticket Office: Gerardo Galeano

Royce Hall Staff

Venue

Director of Operations: Heidi Snyder
Venue Manager: Evan "Otter" Wilkinson

Production

Production Manager: Jeff Wallace
Crew Coordinator: Don Kidd
Audio/Video Supervisor: John Coleman
Lighting Supervisor: Antony Gutierrez
Rigging Supervisor: Robert Ory
Audio/Video Assistant: Duncan Woodbury
Lighting Assistant: Evan Drane
Rigging Assistant: Joe Ceglia

Patron Services

Patron Services Manager: James Porter
House Manager: Ernie Ybarra
F.O.H. Staff: Melih Ercan
F.O.H. Staff: Pia Shekerjian

Custodial

Custodian Supervisor: Steve Jarnagin
Custodian: Ranoya Exum

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

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UCLA Central Ticket Office

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roycehall.org

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UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance gratefully acknowledges our donors, sponsors and members whose gifts directly support the vitality of contemporary performing arts. Thank you!

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Over time, many generous individuals have initiated leadership gifts to establish endowments that support the performing arts at UCLA in perpetuity.

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Shirley & Ralph Shapiro
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for Design for Sharing

Special Thanks

As we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, CAP UCLA would like to acknowledge the critical support we received from a **Shuttered Venue Operators Grant**. This historic initiative — part of the American Rescue Fund Act passed by Congress in March 2021 — represents a significant commitment to the arts and a recognition of the value of the arts and culture sector to the nation's economy and recovery. We would especially like to thank members of Congress who supported the inclusion of university-based performing arts centers and helped make this vital funding possible.

Join the constantly curious

Become a member and support CAP UCLA's ability to engage, challenge, and captivate diverse audiences through the shared experience of extraordinary artistry and the exchange of ideas. As a CAP UCLA member, we invite you to deepen your relationship with artists and ideas by attending special events and participating in activities with other arts enthusiasts, support the development of bold new work and help bolster contemporary performing arts in Los Angeles. And, enjoy priority access to discounted tickets and year-round savings from our dining, retail, and museum partners

Become a member

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