



Photo by Michael G. Stewart



Photo by Claud Mann

# Perla Batalla & Quetzal

Sat, Apr 29, 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](https://cap.ucla.edu)





CAP UCLA Presents

# Perla Batalla & Quetzal

Saturday, Apr 29 at 8 pm  
Royce Hall

Program duration: 2 hours  
20 minute intermission



Funds provided by the José Luis Nazar Endowment for the Performing Arts and the Sally & William A. Rutter Endowment for the Performing Arts.

## Performers

### Perla Batalla

Karen Hammack: Piano  
John Ferraro: Drums  
Dimitris Mahlis: Guitar/oud  
Michael Velasquez: Bass  
Claud Mann: Percussion

### Quetzal

Dr. Martha Gonzalez: lead vocals, percussion  
Tylana Enomoto: vocals, violin  
Quetzal Flores: jarana, guitars, bajosexto, requinto doble  
Juan Perez: double bass, bass guitar  
Alberto Lopez: percussion  
Evan Greer: drums, percussion

### Special guests

Eva Batalla-Mann  
Luis J. Rodriguez  
Sandino Gonzalez Flores  
Lucia Gutierrez Reboloso  
Ramón Gutiérrez  
Tereso Vega  
Santiago Gutiérrez Reboloso



Photo by Phinn Sriployrung



Photo by Linda Peterson

## Perla Batalla

Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Perla Batalla earns critical acclaim for her distinctive voice, emotional honesty & culture-merging compositions. She was born in L.A. to a family immersed in music. Her dad, a Mexican mariachi and D.J., and an Argentine mom ran the family record shop. After cutting her teeth singing and recording with groups of every genre, Perla was recruited by the legendary Canadian poet and songwriter, Leonard Cohen.

After touring and recording with Cohen for more than a decade, Perla launched her solo career with Cohen's encouragement. Since then, she has recorded seven albums, been featured in film and TV, staged two one-woman shows and performed in some of the most prestigious venues around the world.

Her original Frida Kahlo musical was chosen by the Ojai Playwrights Festival and subsequently produced at the San Diego Repertory Theater to critical praise. Perla's personal homage to her mentor, Cohen, continues to play to sold-out audiences throughout Europe and North America.

*The Los Angeles Times* writes "Batalla is comfortable in both English & Spanish, proud of her Mestiza heritage, musically adventurous and above all, a born storyteller with a rambunctious sense of humor."

Batalla's mission of exposing youth to the beauty of music and Spanish language is ongoing in her outreach throughout some of the poorest communities in the U.S. She has been honored with two U.N. Awards: the Earth Charter Award for extraordinary devotion to social and economic justice and The Environmental Peacebuilding Award for advancing social justice through music. Perla is also the recipient of New Mexico's Premio Fronterizo Award for healing work in the world.



## Quetzal

Quetzal is a relentlessly innovative Grammy Award-winning ensemble that narrates the social, cultural and political stories of humanity. Describing the bands influences, Dr. Alex Chavez states, "You hear students of Chicano rock, rhythm and blues, JB funk, Cuban batá, punk, and Motown soul. You hear a band that has cut its teeth organizing, that has worked to fight forms of oppression in the communities they are connected to. And in pursuit of forging these creative and political bridges, you hear artists who are at the epicenter of the transnational world of Son Jarocho." Quetzal's live shows are filled with moments of tenderness, fervor and vivid storytelling that transport the audience into a world of affirmation and belonging. For 30 years they have graced stages across the U.S., Canada, Asia and Mexico. Recognized by notable institutions such as the Library of Congress and The Kennedy Center, the traveling exhibit "American Sabor: Latinos in U.S. Popular Music" sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute, featured Quetzal as leaders and innovators of Chicano music. This feat coupled with their Grammy Award-winning album on Smithsonian Folkways label *Imaginaries* (2013) marks the importance of their past and ongoing work.

Quetzal emerges out of a contentious moment in Los Angeles history. The 1992 Los Angeles uprising along with social movement efforts against Proposition 187 campaign (that denied medical and public services to undocumented immigrants and public education to undocumented children) were prominent catalysts. Most notably the moral philosophy of the Mayan Zapatista insurrection in Mexico spurred a hope and powerful synergy across the city as various communities utilized expressive cultures and public art as platforms from which to voice their resistance.

Today the proactive strategy of Quetzal and other Artivistas is to be regenerative and resourceful in the face of adversity. In addition to performing, members of Quetzal participate in a much larger web of musical, cultural, and political engagement throughout the state and have been instrumental in catalyzing the transnational dialogue between Chican@s/Latin@ communities in the U.S. and Jarocho communities in Veracruz, Mexico. Remaining active within the community, members of the band have been implementing the Collective Songwriting method and traditional music pedagogy in correctional facilities, schools, prisons, detention centers and college classrooms.



In these ways their performance background, music pedagogy and transnational music movement experience is embedded in their holistic approach to music. Inspired by a band trip to Veracruz, Mexico, their latest recording titled *Puentes Sonoros* (Sonic Bridges) was released in 2022 on Smithsonian Folkways. For members of Quetzal, music is a resource that lives at the essence of community cultural vitality and transformation. As an enduring and prominent force channeling the East L.A. soundscape, Quetzal continues to model how music, culture and sociopolitical ideology come together on and off the stage.



Photo by Michael G. Stewart



SUN, MAY 7 AT 7 PM

## **Avery\*Sunshine**

The Theatre at Ace Hotel

Fluent in musical languages ranging from soul, R&B and house to jazz, hip-hop and gospel, Avery\*Sunshine expresses herself with a powerful voice that sweeps the listener up in stories of love, loss and healing. Performing with her Grammy Award-winning creative partner and husband, guitarist Dana “BigDane” Johnson, Avery’s repertoire features soulful, in-the-pocket R&B grooves and life-affirming gospel.

“‘Sunshine’ is indeed a fitting stage name. Her material — a shimmery blend of jazz, soul, and gospel — drips with optimism and humour.” — *The Soul House*

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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**





THU, MAY 11 AT 8 PM

## Quinteto Astor Piazzolla

ROYCE HALL

Latin Grammy award-winning ensemble Quinteto Astor Piazzolla are the premier interpreters of late composer and tango legend Astor Piazzolla. A master of the bandoneon, Piazzolla created a harmonic and rhythmic vocabulary dubbed “nuevo tango.” Founded by Piazzolla’s widow to preserve his legacy, Quinteto Astor Piazzolla’s members’ mission is to share Piazzolla’s music with a new generation.

“Brilliantly assured” — *BBC Music*

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# 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

## Director's Office

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  
Production Associate Technical Director: Duncan Woodbury

## Marketing and Communications

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

## Development

Manager of Institutional Giving: Erika Herran  
Development Assistant: Zoey Mendoza

## 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  
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

## CAP UCLA Administrative Offices

B100 Royce Hall  
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## GENERAL QUESTIONS

info@cap.ucla.edu  
(please allow 48 hours for a response)

## UCLA Central Ticket Office

Tel: 310.825.2101  
Fax: 310.206.7540  
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## Press Inquiries

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## Development Office

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## Design for Sharing/ K-12 Arts Education

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## Theater Rental Information

Anthony T. Jones  
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Fax: 310.206.8678  
atjones@arts.ucla.edu  
roycehall.org

# CAP UCLA Lead Supporters

**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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# Endowments

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

Arthur E. Guedel Memorial Lectureship Fund  
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for the Performing Arts  
Shirley & Ralph Shapiro  
Director's Discretionary Fund  
Shirley & Ralph Shapiro Endowment  
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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