



Sullivan Fortner Trio

Fri, Apr 24, 2026 at 8 pm
The Nimoy

**CENTER
FOR THE ART OF
PERFORMANCE
UCLA**

WELCOME TO THE 2025–26 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



Throughout history, in moments of uncertainty and transformation, it is the arts that have helped us hold the line — and imagine the horizon. As we move through a shifting political and cultural landscape, we return to the stage not only to reflect, but to lead.

Artists have long been the truth-tellers, the visionaries, the builders of bridges where none existed. In the face of fear or division, they light the way forward — sparking dialogue, resisting silence and creating the emotional commons where we rediscover our shared humanity. Art doesn't just document history — it shapes it. It asks bold questions. It offers sanctuary. And it dares us to dream.

For our 2025–26 season CAP UCLA invites you into a radical act of gathering across 30 performances with more than 100 artists from around the globe. Imagine a world where strangers become companions in belonging, where performance becomes public square and where artistic voices help us build a more compassionate and courageous society.

This season is more than a series of performances — it is a call to community. Exciting new theater, revolutionary music and dance remind us that unity is not an ideal — it is an act. The stage becomes our platform, our laboratory, our refuge. Here, we witness. We reckon. We rejoice.

Even in tumultuous times — especially in those times — art meets the moment. And so do we.

With hope and imagination,



Edgar Miramontes
Executive and Artistic Director



Photo by Maria Baranova



Photo by Ogata

CAP UCLA presents

Sullivan Fortner Trio

Fri, Apr 24, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

Program duration: 90 minutes

No intermission



Support provided by the Merle and Peter Mullin Endowment.

PERFORMERS

Sullivan Fortner – Piano

Tyrone Allen II – Bass

Kayvon Gordon – Drums

ABOUT SULLIVAN FORTNER

For more than a decade, Sullivan Fortner has been stretching his deep-rooted talents as a pianist, composer, bandleader and uncompromising individualist. The Grammy Award-winning artist and recipient of the 2026 Larry J. Bell Jazz Artist Award has garnered international praise as both a commanding leader and a fierce collaborator. Most recently, he received the 2026 Grammy Award for Best Jazz Instrumental Album for *Southern Nights* at the 68th Annual Grammy Awards. He previously earned the 2025 Grammy Award for Best Jazz Performance for Samara Joy’s “Twinkle Twinkle Little Me,” and the 2019 Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Album alongside Cécile McLorin Salvant for her acclaimed album *The Window*, on which he served as both key player and producer. Fortner has also received Grammy nominations for his 2023 release *Solo Game* and for his provocative arrangement of “Optimistic Voices/No Love Dying” from Salvant’s 2022 release *Ghost Song*.

In addition to his celebrated releases as a co-leader and collaborator, as a solo leader he has issued *Aria* (2015); *Moments Preserved* (2018); *Solo Game* (2024), which earned 4-star reviews in *DownBeat* and France’s *Telerama Magazine*; and *Southern Nights* (2025) which landed Fortner on the February cover of *DownBeat*.

Winner of the 2024 DownBeat Critics Poll for Rising Star Jazz Group: Sullivan Fortner Trio, the New York-based artist out of New Orleans soon earned the Western Jazz Presenters grant, empowering him to lead his trio – which features Tyrone Allen and Kayvon Gordon – on a coastal tour of the U.S. through Albuquerque, New Mexico, Portland, Oregon and Oakland and Monterey, California. Over the past decade, he has enjoyed

creative associations with such diverse voices as Wynton Marsalis, Paul Simon, Diane Reeves, Etienne Charles and John Scofield; his frequent and longtime collaborators have included Ambrose Akinmusire, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Stefon Harris, Kassa Overall, Tivon Pennicott, Peter Bernstein, Nicholas Payton, Billy Hart, Gary Bartz, Chief Adjuah, Fred Hersch and the late Roy Hargrove. Recent collaborations include Grammy-nominated releases *Dear Love* (Empress Legacy) and *Generations* from leaders Jazzmeia Horn and The Baylor Project, respectively.

Playing solo or leading an orchestra, Fortner engages harmony and rhythmic ideas through curiosity and clarity. Within phrases, he finds universes, and listeners often hear how he's moved by each note he explores. Coming up in New Orleans, Fortner began playing piano at age seven, following a storied lineage of improvisers, masters of time and every iteration of the blues. He earned his Bachelor of Music from Oberlin Conservatory and Master of Music in Jazz Performance from Manhattan School of Music (MSM). A champion of mentorship, Fortner has offered masterclasses at MSM, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), Purdue University, Lafayette Summer Music Workshop, Belmont University and Oberlin Conservatory where he held a faculty position. In spring 2023, he again returned to his undergraduate alma mater as visiting professor of jazz piano.

A highly-sought improviser, Fortner has performed across the country and throughout the world at such cultural institutions as Snug Harbor, New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, Sweet Lorraine's and The Jazz Playhouse in New Orleans, and Jazz at Lincoln Center, Jazz Standard and Smalls Jazz Club in New York City. He's appeared at celebrated festivals, including Newport, Monterey, Discover, Tri-C and Gillmore Keyboard, among others. In 2019, Fortner brought his band to the historic Village Vanguard for a week-long engagement he would reprise in 2020 as a virtual performance during lockdown. His notable studio contributions include work on Etienne Charles' *Kaiso* (Culture Shock, 2011), Donald Harrison's *Quantum Leap* (FOMP, 2010) and Theo Croker's *The Fundamentals* (Left Sided Music, 2007).

Pulling distinct elements from different eras, Fortner's artistry preserves the tradition and evolves the sound. He seeks connections among different musical styles that are at once deeply soulful and wildly inventive. Both his works and his insights have been featured in culture drivers from *The New York Times* to *The Root*. Further accolades include the 2015 Cole Porter Fellowship awarded by the American Pianists Association, Leonore Annenberg Arts Fellowship, the 2016 Lincoln Center Award for Emerging Artists and, in 2020, the prestigious Shifting Foundation Grant for artistic career development.



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.

cap.ucla.edu/dfs



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Ain Gordon and Josh Quillen ***Relics and Their Humans***

May 1 and 2, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

Anchored by family relics – a journal, a playlist, an interview – Josh Quillen and Ain Gordon craft a moving portrait of a father’s ALS diagnosis, brought to life through bold performance and design.

Ain Gordon “haunts the margins of history...conjuring the sort of distant lives that don’t make it into textbooks, processed into oblivion by what he calls history’s ‘ruthless editing machine.’”

– *The New York Times*

cap.ucla.edu/relics



UCLA NIMOY THEATER

CAP UCLA has 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 immerses
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.

cap.ucla.edu/nimoy





Wild Up at The Nimoy ***The Center is Between Us***

Sat, May 9, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

Wild Up at The Nimoy is a three-concert series celebrating ecstatic freedom in music, from improvisation to minimalism and beyond. Wild Up is joined by the santoor and tabla duo of Kamaljeet and Jas Ahluwalia, along with cellist Chris Votek, to weave ancient rhythmic cycles into the fabric of the present moment.

cap.ucla.edu/between-us

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We at UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance acknowledge the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and South Channel Islands).

As a land grant institution, we pay our respects to the Ancestors (Honuukvetam), Elders (Ahihirom), and relatives/relations (Eyoohinkem) past, present and emerging.

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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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

CAP UCLA gratefully acknowledges our donors, sponsors and members.

This list reflects donations and commitments to the UCLA Nimoy Theater campaign as well as annual gifts made from Jan 1, 2025 to Jan 31, 2026.

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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. We gratefully acknowledge:

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NAME YOUR SEAT

The opening of The Nimoy offers donors a rare opportunity to create a lasting legacy while celebrating their passion for contemporary performing arts at UCLA. Learn more about naming a seat in The Nimoy – CAP UCLA’s newest home for live performance – and other opportunities to become a part of this state-of-the-art theater.

cap.ucla.edu/give-nimoy



BECOME A CAP UCLA MEMBER

Membership is an invitation – to be closer to the creative process, to champion new ideas and to help the arts thrive.

Members receive priority access, ticket benefits and invitations to special gatherings that deepen the experience of our shared journey.

Join today at cap.ucla.edu/membership

