

44th SEASON



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ONLINE POSTING:**

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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
CALDER QUARTET  
ANTOINE HUNTER | CHOREOGRAPHER / DANCER  
URBAN JAZZ DANCE COMPANY**



**Saturday, March 16, 2024 | 7:30pm  
Herbst Theatre**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – February 9, 2024 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents a thrilling collaboration between the highly praised **Calder Quartet** and groundbreaking Bay Area-based dance artist **Antoine Hunter** and his **Urban Jazz Dance Company** on **Saturday, March 16, 2024, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**. Hunter is a superbly gifted choreographer and well-known advocate for the Deaf community. In *The Mind's Ear: Motion Beyond Silence*, he and dancers from his company express their experience in a hearing world through dance, with music by Beethoven, John Cage, and Julius Eastman.

**Tickets are \$70/\$60/\$50 and can be purchased at [sfperformances.org](https://sfperformances.org) or by calling 415.392.2545. Tickets can also be purchased at the door as available, including 50% off student rush tickets and 20% off senior rush tickets.**

“When the Calder Quartet approached us about this project, we were thrilled to have the opportunity to bring it to San Francisco. Always looking for new ways to expand the idea of chamber music, we’re delighted to be able to bring these two acclaimed and innovative ensembles together for a unique evening of ‘chamber dance.’” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

## ABOUT CALDER QUARTET

The **Calder Quartet** captivates audiences by exploring a broad spectrum of repertoire, always striving to fulfill the composer's vision in their performances. The group's distinctive artistry is exemplified by a musical curiosity brought to everything they perform.

Winners of the prestigious 2014 Avery Fisher Career Grant, they are widely known for the discovery, commissioning, recording, and mentoring of some of today's best emerging composers. In addition to performances of the complete Beethoven and Bartok quartets, the Calder Quartet's dedication to commissioning new works has given rise to premieres of dozens of string quartets by established and up-and-coming composers including Peter Eötvös, Andrew Norman, Christopher Rouse, Ted Hearne and Christopher Cerrone. Inspired by innovative American artist Alexander Calder, the Calder Quartet's desire to bring immediacy and context to the works they perform creates an artfully crafted musical experience.

Their 2023/24 season included the world premiere of *The Great Span*, a Piano Quintet written by and performed with Timo Andres at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, with additional dates at San Francisco Performances and Chamber Music Albuquerque. A new production, *The Mind's Ear: Motion Beyond Silence* with dancer Antoine Hunter, received its world premiere at the String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam, followed by Stanford, San Francisco Performances, and the Meany Center for the Arts. The Calder's season begins with a tour of Alaska, and includes a return to Chamber Music Napa Valley. Summer engagements included the Mendocino Music Festival, Festival de Lanaudiere, and performances of Adès at La Jolla Music Society.

Past highlights include Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Disney Hall, Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Museum of Art, multiple performances at Wigmore Hall, Barbican, Salzburg Festival, Donaueschingen Festival, Frankfurt Alte Oper, Tonhalle Zurich, IRCAM Paris, Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie and the Sydney Opera House. They have performed as soloists with the Cleveland Orchestra and LA Philharmonic and have collaborated with musicians such as Thomas Adès, Peter Eötvös, Anders Hillborg, Daniel Bjarncasson, Andrew Norman, Audrey Luna, Johannes Moser, Joshua Bell, Menahem Pressler, Joseph Kalechstein, Paul Neubauer, Iva Bittová and Edgar Meyer.

In 2017, the quartet signed an exclusive, multi-disc record deal with Pentatone Records. Their 2018 debut recording features the music of Beethoven and Swedish composer Anders Hillborg. Previously the quartet has appeared on Signum Classics, BMC records, Bridge Records and E1 recording the quartets of Peter Eötvös with Audrey Luna, Thomas Adès' chamber music with the composer at the piano, early works of Terry Riley, the chamber music of Christopher Rouse, Mozart Piano concertos with Anne-Marie McDermott, and Ravel and Mozart quartets.

As a side project, the quartet has collaborated with acts such as Andrew WK, Lord Huron, Vampire Weekend, and The National. Television appearances include the Late Show with David Letterman, Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien, Late Night with Jimmy Kimmel, and the Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson as well as radio appearances on KCRW's Morning Becomes Eclectic, Performance Today, WQXR New York, KUSC Los Angeles, Colorado Public Radio, and NPR.

In 2011 the Calder Quartet launched a non-profit dedicated to furthering its efforts in commissioning, presenting, recording, and education, collaborating with the Getty Museum, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, and the Barbican Centre in London.

The Calder Quartet formed at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music and continued studies at the Colburn Conservatory of Music with Ronald Leonard, and at the Juilliard School, receiving the Artist Diploma in Chamber Music Studies as the Juilliard Graduate Resident String Quartet. The quartet regularly conducts master classes and has taught at the Colburn School, the Oberlin School the Juilliard School, Cleveland Institute of Music, University of Cincinnati College Conservatory and USC Thornton School of Music.

Benjamin Jacobson, violin

Tereza Stanislav, violin

Jonathan Moerschel, viola

Eric Byers, cello

### **ABOUT ANTOINE HUNTER**

Oakland native **Antoine Hunter**—aka Purple Fire Crow—is an award-winning internationally known African-American, Indigenous, Deaf, Disabled, choreographer, dancer, actor, instructor, speaker, producer, and Deaf advocate. He creates opportunities for Disabled, Deaf and hearing artists, produces Deaf-friendly events, and founded the Urban Jazz Dance Company in 2007 and Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival in 2013. He was recently honored with a 2023 Dance Magazine Award, given to dance artists for artistry, integrity, and resilience over the course of their careers.

Other awards include the 2023 USA Artists Fellowship Award, 2022 Disability Futures Fellowship, 2021 Dance Teacher Award, 2019 National Dance/USA fellowship recognized by the Mayor of Oakland, 2018 inaugural Jeanette Lomujó Bremond Humanity Arts Award and 2017 Isadora Duncan (Izzie) for BAIDDF.

Hunter's work has been performed globally and he has lectured across the U.S. including at Kennedy Center's VSA, Harvard and Duke University, and the National Assembly of State Arts as an ambassador for social change. Hunter utilizes his company's artistic talents to engage with audiences, empower Deaf and disabled communities, and advocate for human rights and access, working to end discrimination and prejudice.

His shoe company, DropLabs, and Susan Paley released an innovative haptic product to help people feel music. Hunter curated 2021 Bay Area Deaf Arts at SOMArts, is a 2021 YBCA 100 honoree, is on the production team of Signing Animation actively working on inclusive films and serves on the boards of Dance/USA, BABDA, Museum of Dance and councils for CalArts Alumna and Intrinsic Arts.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hunter founded *#DeafWoke* in 2020, an online talk show that amplifies BIPOC Deaf and Disabled stories as a force for cultural change.

[Watch](#) Calder Quartet

[Watch](#) Antoine Hunter & Urban Jazz Dance Company

**The evening's program will be as follows:**

***The Mind's Ear: Motion Beyond Silence***

**JOHN CAGE:** Quartet in 4 Parts

**BEETHOVEN:** String Quartet Op.130 with *Grosse Fuge*

**JULIUS EASTMAN:** *Joy Boy*

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**Please note our health and safety protocols:** Masks and up-to-date vaccinations are encouraged but not required to attend our performances. This policy will be adjusted if city or state health orders change.

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## **ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES**

San Francisco Performances has been a leader in the Bay Area cultural scene since our founding in 1979. With a strong curatorial vision and adventurous programming, we are the city's premier presenter of intimate concerts and solo performances.

We have introduced hundreds of established and emerging classical music, jazz, and dance artists to audiences, including Yo-Yo Ma, the Juilliard String Quartet, Philip Glass, Wendy Whelan, and the Paul Taylor Dance Company. We also champion a new generation, committed to building a contemporary and equitable repertoire. Performers like the Catalyst Quartet, violinist Jennifer Koh, tenor Lawrence Brownlee, and pianist/composer Vijay Iyer are moving their art into the present and future, making it accessible to younger audiences while converting many traditionalists to new possibilities. They represent the path forward.

Quality, intimacy, and connection are the hallmarks of San Francisco Performances. We nurture unique relationships with today's best artists to create an accessible, warm, and engaging arts experience.

### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

(Please include [our name as the presenter](#) --many thanks!)

## **SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**CALDER QUARTET**

**ANTOINE HUNTER | CHOREOGRAPHER/DANCER**

**And URBAN JAZZ DANCE COMPANY**

**WHEN: Saturday, March 16, 2024, 7:30pm**

**WHERE: Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue (at McAllister), San Francisco**

**PROGRAM: JOHN CAGE:** Quartet in 4 Parts; **BEETHOVEN:** String Quartet Op.130 with *Grosse Fuge*; **JULIUS EASTMAN:** *Joy Boy*

**CONCERT TICKETS:** \$70/\$60/\$50

**CONTACT:** (415) 392.2545; [sfperformances.org](https://sfperformances.org)

**For high-resolution images, contact Terry Conway at [terry@sfperformances.org](mailto:terry@sfperformances.org)  
or click [here](#)**

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