






# CU ★ PRESENTS



## September-November 2023

-  Takács Quartet Sept. 17-18
-  Lila Downs Sept. 22
-  When You Wish Upon a Star Oct. 6
-  Falstaff Oct. 27 and 29
-  Nobuntu Nov. 2



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*Nobuntu performs Nov. 2 as part of the Artist Series.*

# CU ★ PRESENTS

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2023

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Artist Series: Lila Downs performs on Sept. 22.  
*Photo provided by artist's management*

Takács Quartet: *Photo by Amanda Tipton*

College of Music: The Eklund Opera's 2012-  
13 season production of *Falstaff*.  
*Photo provided by Eklund Opera*

The University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado's flagship university, honors and recognizes the many contributions of Indigenous peoples in our state. CU Boulder acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and many other Native American nations. Their forced removal from these territories has caused devastating and lasting impacts.



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## Contents

- 06 A Dynamic Partnership ★
- 08 The CU Presents season
- 12 Verdi's Falstaff is a comic masterpiece ★
- 15 Deck the Halls with the Canadian Brass ★
- 24 "A Boulder treasure" ★
- 26 Thank you to our supporters
- 30 Personnel and policies

**CU Presents** is the home of performing arts on the beautiful University of Colorado Boulder campus. With hundreds of concerts, plays, recitals and more on our stages each year, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

- ★ Artist Series
- CO Colorado Shakespeare Festival
- 🎷 Takács Quartet
- CU CU Performing Arts, including the **College of Music**, **Department of Theatre & Dance** and the **Holiday Festival**.

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# Artist Series and Center for African and African American Studies Forge Dynamic Partnership

CU Presents Staff

The University of Colorado Boulder's cultural landscape is set to receive a vibrant and enriching boost as CU Presents' Artist Series and the Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS) join forces in an exciting new partnership. This collaboration will support an inspiring array of performances and events that celebrate the richness of African and African American arts and culture.

The CAAAS's dedication to promoting awareness and understanding of the African diaspora unites with the Artist Series' mission to bring world-class performances to the campus community. As part of this collaboration, the CAAAS will proudly co-sponsor two Artist Series events in Macky Auditorium during the 2023-24 season: the electrifying harmony of *Nobuntu* on Nov. 2 and the captivating movement of *Step Afrika!* on Feb. 2.

"The Center for African & African American Studies is thrilled to partner with CU Presents' Artist Series. "This partnership means that the Boulder campus and Boulder community will be able to witness wonderful performing artists from Africa and throughout the African diaspora on a regular basis," according to the CAAAS founder and director Reiland Rabaka.

"I am excited by this partnership and the opportunity to engage more deeply with the communities we wish to serve. As one of our renowned faculty experts, Rabaka's expertise will help inform future Artist Series programming and outreach activities," adds Joan McLean Braun, Executive Director of CU Presents.

**Nobuntu**, an all-female a cappella quintet hailing from Zimbabwe, promises to mesmerize audiences with their harmonious melodies and

powerful storytelling on the stage. This unique group embodies the resilience and creativity that characterizes so much of African and African American cultural expressions.

**Step Afrika!**, the renowned dance company rooted in the traditions of stepping, will grace the CU Boulder campus with a performance that fuses percussive dance, engaging choreography and vibrant rhythms. Their captivating show not only celebrates the dynamism of African American dance but also invites audiences to partake in an exhilarating interactive and cross-cultural experience.

As part of their joint efforts, the Artist Series and the CAAAS are also thrilled to announce an interactive workshop with Ghanaian musician and storyteller **Okaidja Afroso** on September 26 at CU Boulder's Center for Community. Through the collaborative efforts of both organizations, Afroso will welcome participants on a journey including stories, songs, dances and a Q&A. This workshop is also made possible by Denver's Newman Center for the Performing Arts, where Afroso will perform live on Sept. 27.

The partnership between the Artist Series and the CAAAS exemplifies CU Boulder's commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive campus environment. By bringing together the power of performance and the rich cultural expression of African and African American studies, this collaboration promises to enrich the university community and beyond.

*(Photo: Okaidja Afroso)*







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## Song of Pueblo

Thursday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m.  
 Grusin Music Hall, CU Boulder

Join us for “Song of Pueblo,” a folk oratorio by Daniel Valdez. World premiere performances of the orchestrated version of “Song of Pueblo”—created by College of Music alumni—will feature the CU Boulder Chamber Orchestra alongside Pueblo musicians.

*A second performance of “Song of Pueblo” will be held Oct. 21, 2 p.m. at Memorial Hall, Pueblo. Performances are free + open to the public. [colorado.edu/amrc/pueblo](http://colorado.edu/amrc/pueblo).*

**These performances are made possible through The Roser Visiting Artist Endowment.**



# CU ★ PRESENTS

## UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### TICKETED EVENT KEY

- ★ Artist Series
- 🎷 Takács Quartet
- CU CU Boulder Performing Arts



Scan this QR code or visit [cupresents.org/performances](https://cupresents.org/performances) to explore the full season.



### Lila Downs

Friday, Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m.

- ★ Macky Auditorium



### When You Wish Upon a Star

A Jazz Tribute to 100 Years of Disney

Friday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.

- ★ Macky Auditorium



### Falstaff

An opera by Giuseppe Verdi

Oct. 27 and 29, 2023

- CU Macky Auditorium



### Nobuntu

Thursday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.

- ★ Macky Auditorium



### Working, A Musical

A musical from the book by Studs Terkel

Nov. 3-12, 2023

- CU Roe Green Theatre



### Takács Quartet

Nov. 5-6, 2023

- 🎷 Grusin Music Hall

Streaming Nov. 5-13





## 9 to 5, The Musical

Nov. 9-12, 2023

 Music Theatre



## Holiday Festival 2023

Dec. 8-10, 2023

 Macky Auditorium



## Christmas with the Canadian Brass

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.

 Macky Auditorium



## Joyce Yang, piano with the Takács Quartet

Friday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.

 Macky Auditorium



## Takács Quartet

Jan. 14-15, 2024

 Grusin Music Hall

Streaming Jan. 14-22



## MOMIX

Alice

Saturday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m.

 Macky Auditorium

# Good to know for the show:

## Accessibility

The University of Colorado is committed to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities.



For more information, scan this QR code or visit [cupresents.org/accessibility](https://cupresents.org/accessibility).

## Late Seating

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the house manager.

There is no late seating in the Music Theatre (Imig Music Building) or Loft Theatre (University Theatre Building).

## Photos and Recordings

Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.

## Smoking

Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

## Ticket Sales

Ticket sales are final; no refunds. Exchanges are subject to availability and must be made at least one business day prior to the day of performance.

Subscribers may exchange tickets for free. Single-ticket exchanges are subject to a \$3 exchange fee. Upgrade fees may apply in all cases.

Please return your tickets to the box office prior to the performance if you are unable to use them.



The Center for African and African American Studies (acronym: the CAAAS, and commonly called the Cause) is the focal point for Black community and Black culture at the University of Colorado Boulder. It is a co-curricular and community-building space where students, staff, faculty, alumni, artists, activists, allies, and community members come together to critically study the historical, cultural, and artistic experiences of Africans, African Americans, and the African diaspora.

The Center has three major programs: the CAAAS Research Program, the CAAAS Visual and Performing Arts Program and the CAAAS Student Services Program. As a result, it is simultaneously a research center, cultural arts center, and student services center.

For further information and/or to join the CAAAS/the Cause community visit our website at [colorado.edu/center/caaas](http://colorado.edu/center/caaas) or contact us at [caaas@colorado.edu](mailto:caaas@colorado.edu).



Center for African and  
African American Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

## CU ★ PRESENTS

“Nobuntu” — an expression meaning feminine familial love, humility and kindness — is a female a cappella quintet from Zimbabwe that draws international acclaim for its breathtaking performances of traditional Zimbabwean songs, afro jazz and gospel.

### Nobuntu

**Thursday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.**

**Macky Auditorium**

★ Tickets and more at [cupresents.org](http://cupresents.org).



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# Verdi's Falstaff is a comic masterpiece

By Henry Michaels

The name Giuseppe Verdi is likely to conjure up in the mind of the opera lover images of intense—even gritty—dramas. But his final masterpiece, *Falstaff*, comes from a far different realm: the world of comedy.

The titular character of Verdi's compositional coup de grâce is Sir John Falstaff, a loud, drunken buffoon of a man who features in three Shakespeare plays: *Henry IV* parts one and two, as well as *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Although his appearances are always played for a laugh, Falstaff is a character with real human dimension, something at which Shakespeare excelled and that Verdi and librettist Arrigo Boito carried through into the opera. Macky Auditorium will play host to that signature blend of comedy and depth on October 27 and 29. This production of the College of Music's Eklund Opera Program is overseen by Director Leigh Holman and Music Director Nicholas Carthy.

Verdi's *Falstaff* is based primarily on *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, although it does draw a few scenes from *Henry IV, Part 1* and *Part 2*. "Falstaff is a knight who needs more money for food and beer," says Eklund Opera Program Director Leigh Holman. "What does he do? He decides to woo Alice Ford, a very wealthy woman in hopes of securing some dough for food and wine."

Deciding two women are better than one, Falstaff additionally sets his sights on Alice's friend, Meg. "Comedy ensues when Falstaff mistakenly thinks he's as smooth as Don Juan and he goes after these rich women," says Holman. "These women are sick and tired of being hit on and they make a game out of getting their revenge. It's a comedic commentary on misogyny, power dynamics and girl-power! You've gotta love that."

It's a work that has much to offer for seasoned operagoers and newbies,

alike. "For operatic veterans, you will see one of the most brilliant operas written by Verdi," says Holman. "For newcomers to opera: You are going to have fun. You will have a rollicking good time, hear beautiful voices with athletic magnitude, a student orchestra that rivals any collegiate orchestra, lights, colors, and hilarity culminating in an epic experience. No other live performance genre can rival opera, and this is a great one to cut your teeth on."

"In this comedy, Verdi's last opera before his death, you will experience the brilliance of his musical magic and theatrical acumen come together in one comedic work. It is not to be missed."

## FALSTAFF

Oct. 17 and 19  
Macky Auditorium  
Tickets at  
this QR Code:





# CU ★ PRESENTS

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**CU Boulder's Holiday Festival:**  
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for all ages.

**2023 Holiday Festival**

**Dec. 8-10, 2023**

**Macky Auditorium**

★ Tickets and more at [cupresents.org](https://cupresents.org).



# CU ★ PRESENTS

Joyce Yang captivates audiences with her virtuosity, lyricism and interpretive sensitivity. The first half of this concert features Yang in a solo recital. Local favorites, the Takács Quartet, join her on the second half to perform Dvorák's lyrical Piano Quintet in A Major.

**Joyce Yang, piano with**

**the Takács Quartet**

**Friday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.**

**Macky Auditorium**

★ Tickets and more at [cupresents.org](https://cupresents.org).



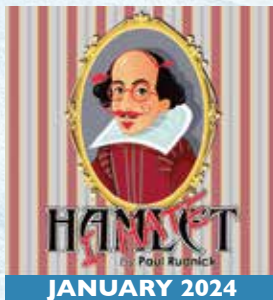
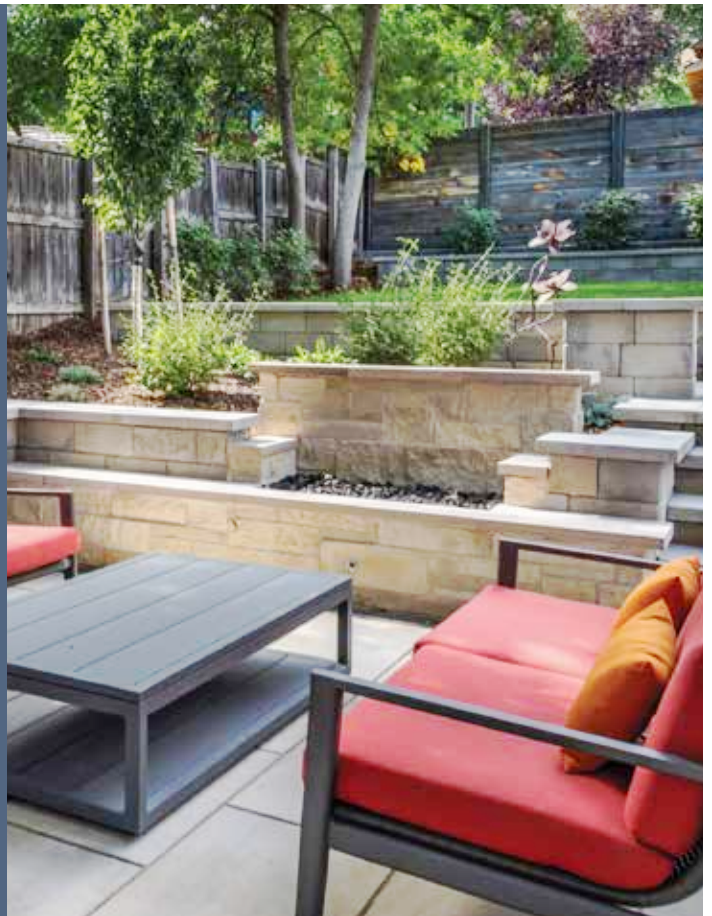




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# Deck the Halls with the Canadian Brass

By Henry Michaels

In the world of brass quintets, there is one name that stands above all others: the Canadian Brass.

From Carnegie Hall to Sesame Street, the Canadian Brass has been entertaining audiences around the globe for more than 50 years. Few musical groups are known so equally for their musicianship and their charisma, but this potent combination of impeccable playing and magnetic stage presence has become the hallmark of the Canadian Brass. Their more than 130 albums—totaling more than 2 million albums sold worldwide—is a testament to their immense musical impact.

A veritable musical force of nature, the Canadian Brass have left the landscape of brass chamber music forever altered. Their jam-packed schedule of traveling, performing, recording and outreach means the group goes through a *lot* of music—and in so doing, they have almost single-handedly transformed the brass quintet repertoire. Between commissions for new music and transcriptions and arrangements of existing works, the Canadian Brass are responsible for adding more than 600 musical works to a repertoire that once could have been described as limited.

Throughout the course of the 53-year history of the Canadian Brass, there has been one constant: tubist and founding member Chuck Daellenbach has served as the foundation—musically and otherwise—of the group since 1970! But new faces do join the Canadian Brass from time to time, and this fall marks the debut of new

trumpet player Ashley Hall-Tighe. Ashley brings a wealth of playing experience to the group, both as an internationally acclaimed soloist and as a chamber musician. She serves as principal trumpet of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and is on the faculty at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. And this won't be her first experience with the Canadian Brass, having first worked with the group as a student in 2001 as part of their chamber music residency at the Music Academy of the West. With an almost 20-year international performing career, Ashley Hall-Tighe is sure to fit right in with one of the world's busiest and most storied brass ensembles.

Although it may feel strange to refer to a group as well known as the Canadian Brass as being famous for any one particular thing, they are justifiably renowned for their Christmas concerts. With decades of holiday-themed programming and more than 10 Christmas albums, the Canadian Brass are sure to present a Yuletide musical extravaganza that will have visions of sugar plums dancing in *everyone's* heads.

## CANADIAN BRASS

Dec. 13, 2023  
Macky Auditorium  
Tickets at  
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# NOBUNTU

Thursday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Macky Auditorium

## Program

### Earth Song

Traditional Native American

### Ingoma Yami

Joyline Sibanda

### Uyangiphoxa

Duduzile Sibanda

### Nanguyana

Duduzile Sibanda

### Cula

Zanele Manhenga

### Music in the Air

Letta Mbulu, arr. Nobuntu

### Not Yet Uhuru

Letta Mbulu, arr. Nobuntu

### Rwizi

Peter Muparutsa, arr. Nobuntu

### Qina

Duduzile Sibanda and Zanele Manhenga

### Ilanga

Duduzile Sibanda

### Black Tax

Zanele Manhenga

### Lean On Me

Bill Withers

### Narini

Zanele Manhenga

### Siyambonga

Thandeka Moyo

Tonight's show is generously sponsored by:  
CU Boulder's Center for African & African American Studies



Center for African and  
African American Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

### NEED TO KNOW FOR THE SHOW

- Nobuntu appears by arrangement with **Alliance Artist Management**.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- See **Page 9** of this publication for additional show and venue policies.

# Program Notes

## Earth Song

A Native American song. We love this song; we sing it with our minds, body and soul.

## Ingoma Yami

In this song, we ask the ancestors to guide us in this music journey. We ask for a new song always.

## Uyangiphoxa

In this song, we blame all woes and troubles on Satan, and we ask for courage and strength from the Almighty.

## Nanguyana

A wedding in our culture is a big and celebrated event. We celebrate the arrival of the bride and we are in awe of how she looks.

## Cula

A song fixes any emotion, we encourage anyone who is down and out to sing and they will be happy again. If you are happy sing some more.

## Music in the Air

A song by legendary South African artist Letta Mbulu celebrating the feelings that come with music.

## Not Yet Uhuru

Another Letta Mbulu song, *Not yet uhuru* means we are not yet free. This song was released in the early years South Africa got its independence from the Apartheid system. We as Nobuntu feel this song still rings true now as it did then. We are not yet free as a society if women do not have equal opportunities and equal pay with our male counterparts.

## Rwizi

A Shona hymn we sing to praise the most high.

## Qina

This song encourages women to be strong and not always to be advocated for. If you don't stand up for yourself, no one else will.

## Ilanga

A song that encourages one to work in their youth so as to prepare themselves for a bright future.

## Black Tax

Traditionally in our culture, parents and grandparents are taken care of, by their children. It's a duty and an honour to be able to take care of your parents regardless of your circumstances. However in the past years, because of cultural integration some people feel burdened to take care of their loved ones and call it "Black Tax." We as Nobuntu say there is no such thing as black tax. Be glad that you are able to take care of your parents.

## Lean On Me

This is a song by Bill Withers about friendly support during difficult times. Nobuntu do a rendition of this much needed message that strengthens the bond between people.

## Narini

*Narini* means forever and ever. The songs talks about how love stays forever. Love does not envy, its does not boast in itself and love is patient forever and ever.

## Siyambonga

A song of thanks giving. We praise the most high for always giving us the opportunities we have.

## About Nobuntu

Nobuntu, the female a cappella quartet from Zimbabwe, has drawn international acclaim for its inventive performances that range from traditional Zimbabwean songs to Afro jazz to gospel. The ensemble's concerts are performed with pure voices, augmented by minimalistic percussion, traditional instruments such as the Mbira (thumb piano) and organic, authentic dance movements.

Nobuntu was nominated for Best Musician of the Year at the Zimbabwe International Women Awards in London in 2015 and are currently a two-time winner for the Best Imbube Group at the Bulawayo Arts Awards 2017 and 2019. In the last few seasons, Nobuntu has performed at festivals



and concert halls in Italy, Austria, Germany, Belgium, the Czech Republic and throughout the African continent. The ensemble was a huge critical success at Trans-Vocal in Frankfurt and Voice Mania in Vienna. Their first tour to Canada, in 2016, included performances in Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, and Victoria.

The word Nobuntu is an African concept that values humbleness, love, unity and family from a woman's perspective. The ensemble represents a new generation of young African women singers who celebrate and preserve their culture, beauty and heritage through art. The ensemble's mission is the belief that music can be an important vehicle for change, one that transcends racial, tribal, religious, gender, and economic boundaries.

Back at home, Nobuntu holds a number of community initiatives, one of which is The Nobuntu Pad Bank where they gather sanitary pads for young women in the arts in underprivileged communities.

Nobuntu has released three recordings—*Thina* in 2013, *Ekhaya* in 2016 and *Obabes beMbube* in 2018. The group has made dozens of television and radio appearances throughout Africa and Europe promoting these recordings and the culture of their homeland.

## Duduzile Sibanda

Duduzile Sibanda is a self-taught singer and song writer who discovered her ability to sing at a very young age. Coming from a music-loving family she grew up singing at family gatherings, church functions, and in the school choir. Her passion for performing has continued to grow.

After high school, Sibanda pursued music as a backing singer for local musicians like Khulekani Bhethule (Khuxxman), Zenzele Ndebele, Gabs Fire, Mjox and many more. She also worked vocally on a series of jingles for Radio Dialogue.

In 2011 she joined a theatre project titled "Stitcha" produced by Qhube Productions where she further explored her music career as well as theatre. After Stitsha, she began doing backing vocals for Ramadu, an Austrian based musician, who at the time, was working on his release *Zim Classics*.

Sibanda joined Nobuntu when the group was founded. She is a singer, songwriter and dancer on albums *Thina* and *Ekhaya*.

In 2016 Sibanda, along with friend and fellow Nobuntu member, Zanele Manhenga, started uMuz'Wentombi (The House of Woman), a culture and arts platform meant to bring women together in the city of Bulawayo.

## Zanele Manhenga

Zanele Manhenga is a talented singer, songwriter and poet who began her journey as a child singing at family gatherings together with her older sister, afro-jazz artist Dudu Manhenga.

She has also appeared numerous times as a performer and an MC at the Sistaz Open Mic, a Pamberi Trust initiative to give young and upcoming female artists a platform to enter the mainstream of the arts in Harare. In addition to the open mic sessions she has attended several grooming workshops under the gender project F.L.A.M.E. This has contributed to her growth and confidence along her musical journey.

Zanele has performed, recorded, toured and been mentored by Dudu Manhenga and Color Blu in South Africa and Mozambique. She has also performed as a background vocalist for many artists including Pastor Gee, Ignatious Mabasa, Ronny Roots, Bob Nyabinde, Jeys Marabini, Lwazi Shabangu and Cool Crooners to mention but a few. With these and other artists she has performed at Harare International Festival of the Arts HIFA (2007), Beira Jazz festival (Mozambique 2009), Harare Jazz Festival (2010-2012), Grahamstown Arts Festival (South Africa 2009-2010), October Jazz (2011-2014) and Bob Marley Commemoration (2012)

In 2011 Zanele Manhenga studied for a National Certificate in Musicology at the Zimbabwe College of Music where she trained with various instruments including the Mbira and traditional Zimbabwe dance among other subjects.

Zanele released a single online called *Nginje* in 2013. In 2014 Zanele Manhenga was signed by 10th District Music and joined Nobuntu. She has since contributed songs on the latest Nobuntu album *Ekhaya*. She is the Mbira player of the group, a singer and songwriter.

## Thandeka Moyo

Thandeka Moyo is a talented songwriter, singer, dancer, makeup artist and designer. She started singing in high school at St Columbus in 2003 and was very much involved with the high school choir.

From 2008-2010 she studied cosmetology at Bulawayo Polytechnic and focused on image consultancy and personal grooming. During this time, she joined the Bulawayo Polytechnic Choir and performed in district competitions.

Since then she has managed to work with upcoming artists in Zimbabwe, including the UK based gospel artist Nkosie ka Ndlovu and Afro-Soul artist Mduduzi Ngoma.

Moyo joined Nobuntu in September 2014.

## Joyline Sibanda

Joyline Sibanda is a talented dancer and singer who started performing in 2004 at Vuka Africa and with Cont Mhlanga in a show called *Mzilikazi*. She then worked with Friends of Joshua as a dancer and singer of INDLOVUKAZI Zikanyongola. In 2011 she toured Germany with Intombi Zomqangala.

Sibanda is a singer and dancer, and original member of Nobuntu.





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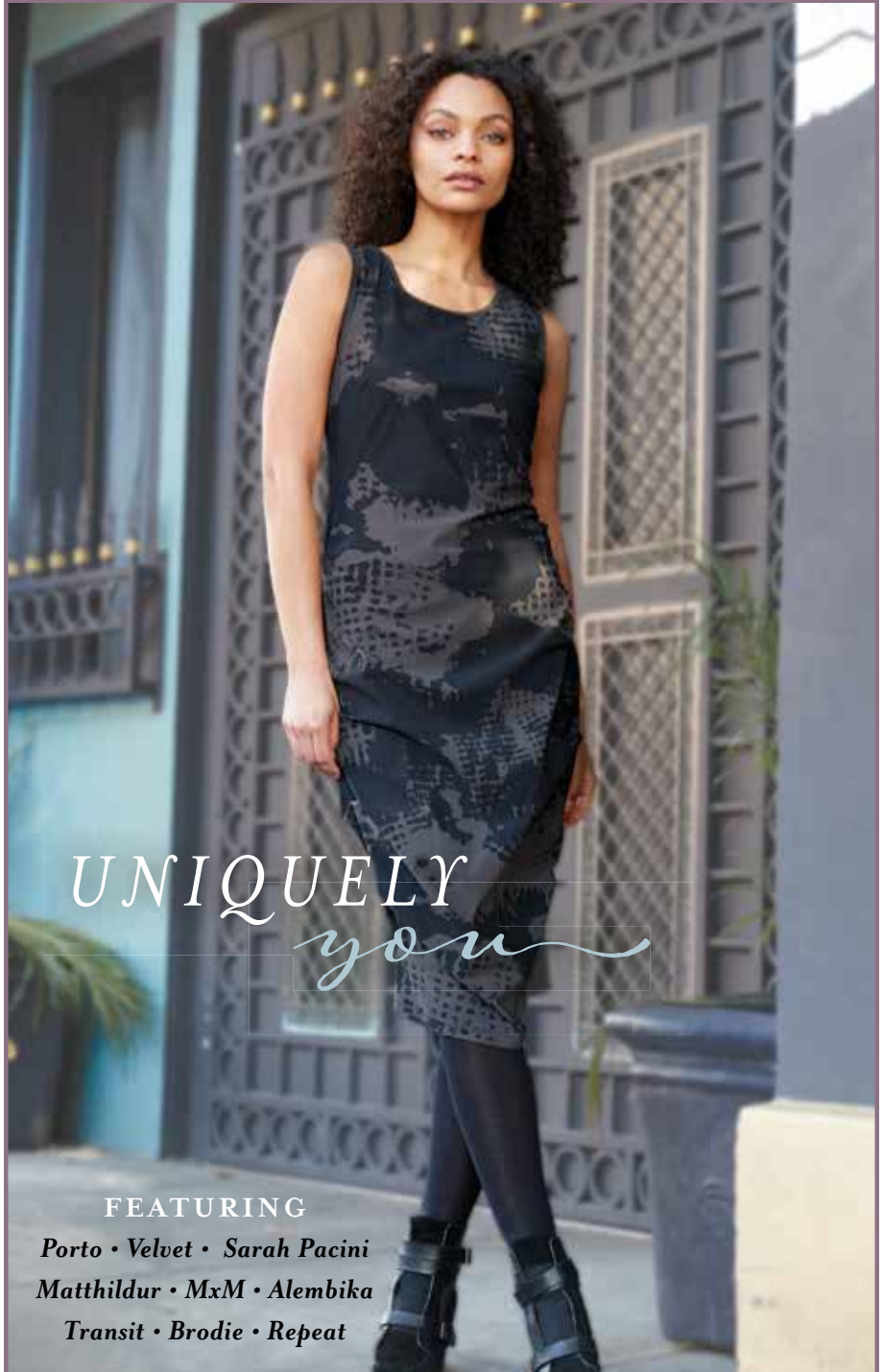
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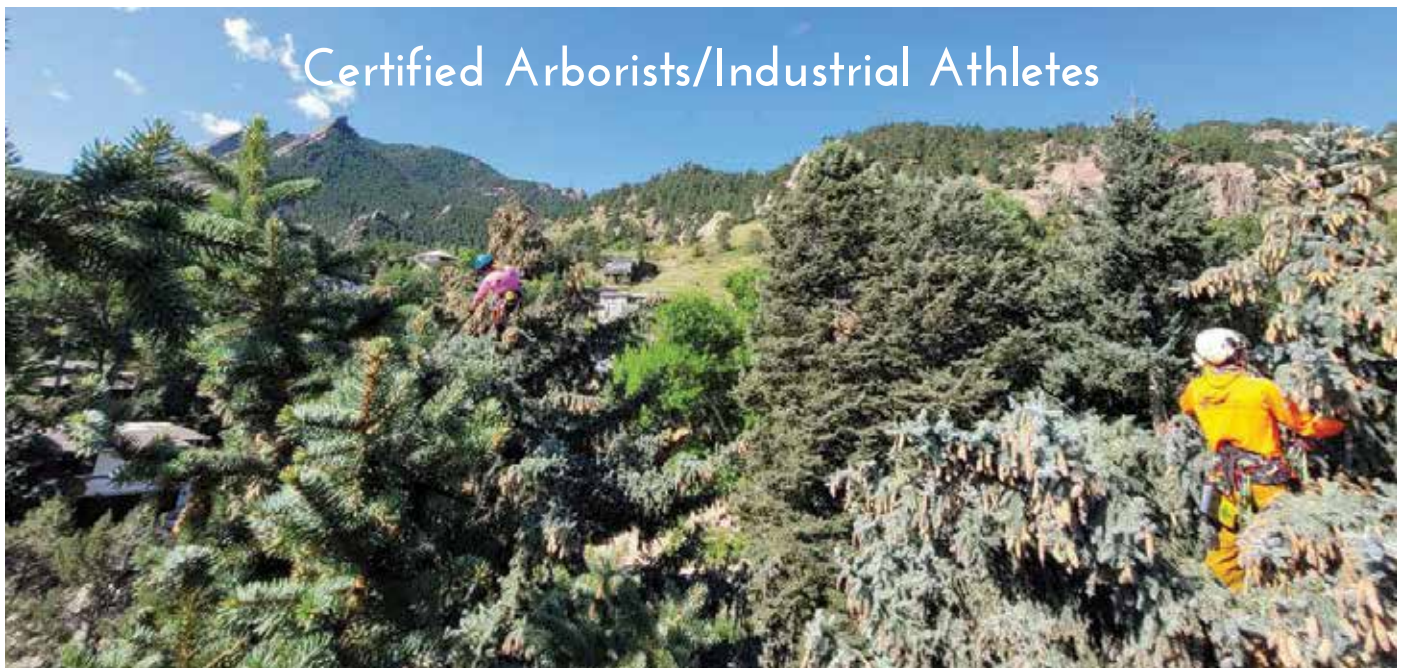
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# “A Boulder treasure”

Celebrating the illustrious career of CU Presents Executive Director Joan McLean Braun

By Sabine Kortals Stein

Boulder native and CU Boulder alumna Joan McLean Braun (BM '81 and MBA '93) has achieved an extraordinary 30-year career at her alma mater, much to the delight and deep appreciation of campus and community audiences alike.

“As executive director of CU Presents since 2001, Joan took the helm when CU Presents was still CU Concerts at the College of Music,” recalls Dean John Davis. “From the beginning—back when I directed the college’s jazz studies program in the early 2000s—Joan took the time to really listen and understand the goals, needs and performance activities of the program which opened the gates for me to achieve what I envisioned.

“She extended the same can-do, open-minded approach to all academic areas in the College of Music, quickly recognizing that she needed to closely partner with our departments and studios to develop the infrastructure of a sustainable performing arts entity that also supports our academic mission.”

Since then, Braun—who further serves as the college’s assistant dean for concerts and communications—has led the expansion of CU Presents to become what it is today: The home of all performing arts on the CU Boulder campus with hundreds of concerts, recitals, plays and other events each year, including the popular Holiday Festival and uniquely innovative Faculty Tuesdays series, as well as the much-lauded Artists Series and Takács Quartet series, the nationally acclaimed Colorado Shakespeare Festival and more.

“Joan has done a wonderful job of building and sustaining CU Presents over its long history,” says CU Boulder Chancellor Philip DiStefano. “Her dedicated work connecting the community with all that the College of Music offers has elevated the college’s reputation and strengthened the university’s relationships with the community.

“Joan’s efforts have been deeply appreciated and have laid the foundation for future success for CU performers, scholars and artists.”

Indeed, under Braun’s artistic vision—and thanks to the collaborative relationships she’s established on campus and with other Colorado arts presenters and artists’ agents worldwide—our audiences have experienced the College of Music’s many outstanding ensembles and opera/musical theatre productions, as well as CU Boulder Theatre & Dance performances and groundbreaking acts by award-winning, world-renowned icons.

“The Artist Series has been and remains an extremely prestigious and important series,” says Toby Tumarkin, executive vice president and global head of artists and attractions with IMG Artists. “Under the leadership of Joan

Braun, CU Presents has continued to bring new stars from around the globe while maintaining its traditional audiences, subtly and successfully adapting to a changing arts landscape.

“Consistently an anchor for artists and touring projects in the region and a crucial lynchpin to help to bring shows to the West Coast, Joan Braun’s work at CU Presents is a powerful example of important and thoughtful arts presenting.”

But Braun—who will retire at the end of the 2023-'24 season—is quick to deflect such well-earned respect and admiration. “I have the good fortune of a brilliant team,” she says, also crediting a strong, synergistic collaboration with College of Music Dean Emeritus Daniel Sher over more than two decades. “The way I see it, my role is to empower my senior team, and to ensure they understand what I’ve learned and how I do things—especially artist management and meeting the needs of our community. That’s how we can best support the next director of CU Presents.”

Among her dedicated staff are longtime colleague Laima Haley who directs CU Presents’ marketing and public relations; CU Presents’ Operations Director Andrew Metzroth who oversees Tessitura ticketing operations; Senior House Manager Rojana Savoye; and Macky Auditorium Director Rudy Betancourt. “Boulder’s cultural scene would not have achieved its world-class reputation without Joan’s vision for what is possible, steadfast leadership and resilience in the face of challenges,” says Betancourt. “She has been a trusted mentor and a dear friend not only to me but to many at CU Presents, the College of Music and—closer to my heart—Macky Auditorium.

“Her service to the university and the surrounding area has become an unmatched legacy.”



*And it's precisely Braun's remarkable legacy that inspires our **invitation for donations to the Artist Series endowment in her honor**, with the goal of reaching \$1 million this season.*

“I’m so gratified knowing that the endowment ensures and protects the Artist Series and the overall health of CU Presents—long after I’m retired and into the future,” says Braun. “In the arts, we’re quite vulnerable to events beyond our control—like the recent pandemic or the floods in 2013 when, understandably, a lot fewer people were able to come to our performances.

“For myriad reasons, when earned revenues fall short, the endowment provides crucial funding—hopefully in perpetuity.”



*“Managing a performing arts venue is an affair of the heart and mind. On one hand are the myriad logistics: Contracts, communications, transportation, finances. On the other: Human connection, the gift of beauty and meaning. At best, these all play together in a poetic rhythm, organic and natural, to create a unity that seems like it was inevitable.*

*But it only happens when someone has the vision to see the whole in all of its parts. For the Artist Series and CU Presents, that person is Joan who for 30 years has brought us together for encounters with beauty and meaning through music and dance. She is truly a Boulder treasure.”*

*—Daryl James, Artist Series Advisory Board member + former chair*

# Thank you!

Your annual contributions provide essential support for the Artist Series, Eklund Opera and Takács Quartet. Your gifts support concert performances, opera productions, faculty recitals, guest artist appearances, the Takács Quartet residency and many other vital projects. You make these performances possible.



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