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**GEORGE TAKEI, PAULA POUNDSTONE, JOHN CLEESE,  
JOSÉ FELICIANO, CHARLES PHOENIX, TAFELMUSIK,  
CAPITOL STEPS, DAVID BURNHAM, MONA GOLABEK,  
COMPLEXIONS CONTEMPORARY BALLET, BALLETTYBOYZ, BALÉ FOLCLÓRICO DA BAHIA,  
AND THE URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT\_HIGHLIGHT ECLECTIC 2016-17 SEASON AT THE  
RICHARD AND KAREN CARPENTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

**Wit & Wisdom Series • Cabaret Series • Dance Series • Spectacle Series  
Music, Comedy, Family Events, and more!**

**LONG BEACH, California** –The Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center, on the campus of Cal State Long Beach, announces its 2016-17 Season featuring an entertaining mix of music, comedy, dance and family performances that reflect the broad cultural landscape of the Greater Long Beach community. The season is currently available for renewing subscribers and by a priority invitation, available online at [CarpenterArts.org](http://CarpenterArts.org). Online single tickets and subscriptions will be available online on May 20.

“For more than 20 years, the Carpenter Center has enriched the CSULB campus and our Southern California neighbors with engaging high-caliber performances,” Executive Director Michele Roberge said. “Our reputation for delighting audiences extends into 2016-17 with an outstanding array of performances that reveal the imagination, creativity, and discipline of artists from all over the world.”

The Carpenter Center continues to present a variety of popular, professional performances—assembled for purchase into five series—which are complimented by additional single-event performances.

*Find all of the season’s upcoming events below, along with artist links and date information.*

## Dance Series

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Designed for staging dance performances, the Carpenter Center is a remarkable venue for seeing dance as well. The **Dance Series** continues the Center's reputation as a leading presenter of dance in Southern California. This season, **Complexions Contemporary Ballet** continues to lead the way with its unprecedented approach to contemporary ballet under the direction of Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson. \* \* \* Next is **BalletBoyz**, London's hottest groundbreaking and distinctly masculine dance company renowned for their exciting and innovative blend of live performance and original film work—presenting two new commissions looking at life and death. \* \* \* Brazil's **Balé Folclórico da Bahia** concludes the series with its explosive drumming, feverish dancing and uncontrollable energy.

- [Complexions Contemporary Ballet](#)  
Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016 at 8 p.m.
- [BalletBoyz](#)  
Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017 at 8 p.m.
- [Balé Folclórico da Bahia](#)  
Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 8 p.m.

## WOW! Series

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The **WOW! Series** presents dazzling sights, daring feats and that special something that makes for a performance to remember—the wow factor. This year's WOW! acts represent a dynamic range of thrilling experiences for everyone. The excitement begins with **Peter Gros of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom**, as he shares both the adventurous world of wildlife and thrilling tales from his travels, introducing you to exotic animals on stage while highlighting his many explorations with a mix of video clips and inspirational stories. \* \* \* The masters of agility and grace return when **The Peking Acrobats** put on a mesmerizing performance featuring all the excitement and festive pageantry of a Chinese Carnival! The Peking Acrobats are experts at treacherous wire-walking, trick cycling, precision tumbling, somersaulting and gymnastics. \* \* \* The series concludes with a daring display of exclusive grand illusions, plus close-up magic projected onto a huge screen with **The Jason Bishop Show**. As America's hottest illusionist, Bishop mystifies with stunning and original state-of-the art magic, award-winning sleight of hand, and a one-of-a-kind act delivered with a totally modern energy and an outstanding rock soundtrack.

- [Peter Gros of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom](#)  
Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016 at 8 p.m.
- [The Peking Acrobats](#)  
Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- [The Jason Bishop Show](#)  
Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 8 p.m.

## Wit and Wisdom Series

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The Carpenter Center's most popular series, the **Wit and Wisdom Series**, brings three celebrity performers to Long Beach for engaging evenings of insight and hilarity. **George Takei**—the noted actor and activist with a signature wit—as he shares stories about his rise to celebrity as a sci-fi icon, his remarkable journey as social media luminary, and his passionate dedication to empowering others to beat the odds and make a difference. \* \* \* Armed with nothing but a stool, a microphone and a can of Diet Pepsi, **Paula Poundstone** returns with her legendary ability to create humor on the spot! Her famous brand of spontaneity ensures every show is unique, as Poundstone finds the hilarious angle of almost any subject—from the absurdity of the political world to the deviousness of housecats. \* \* \* Best known for his idiosyncratic turns in “Monty Python’s Flying Circus”, comedic master **John Cleese**—often regarded as the funniest man alive—takes the Carpenter Center stage once again to share hilarious anecdotes about his colorful life and career, which spans more than 50 years!

- **An Evening with [George Takei](#)**  
Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016 at 8 p.m.
- **An Evening with [Paula Poundstone](#)**  
Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 at 8 p.m.
- **An Evening with [John Cleese](#)**  
Saturday, March 18, 2017 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

## Cabaret Series

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Unlink any other offering is the intimate **Cabaret Series**, where patrons are seated on the Carpenter Center stage less than 40 feet from the performers. Patrons enjoy table seating, which comes with the option to partake in dinner or bar service before the show. **Marquee Five** will lead off the season with a spunky, intelligent flair, tight harmonies, and exciting five-part arrangements as they visit hits by greats like George & Ira Gershwin, and Irving Berlin! \* \* \* Jazz singer **Mandy Harvey** effortlessly glides from breathy jazz standards to growling blues as she makes her Carpenter Center debut. \* \* \* Australian singer, composer, and music arranger **Michael Griffiths** pays homage to Cole Porter—and the legacy that continues to sparkle—with all of Porter’s provocative and witty lyrics as well as sophisticated rhythms and melodies. \* \* \* Broadway star **David Burnham** (“Wicked,” “A Light in the Piazza”) returns with his magnetic charm, and his strong, confident baritone that can soar into the tenor range.

- **[Marquee Five](#), *Back Porch Swing***  
Wednesday-Thursday, Sep. 21-22, 2016
- **[Mandy Harvey](#)**  
Wednesday-Thursday, Nov. 9-10, 2016
- **[Michael Griffiths](#), *Cole***  
Wednesday-Thursday, Feb. 1-2, 2017
- **[David Burnham](#)**  
Wednesday-Thursday, April 26-27, 2017  
*All Cabaret performances start at 7 p.m. Optional dinner service 6-6:50 p.m.*

## Sunday Afternoon Concert Series

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- This season's **Sunday Afternoon Concert Series** opens with the Carpenter Center debut of the Los Angeles-based **The Urban Renewal Project**. This group will pay homage to Duke Ellington and Count Basie, while fearlessly pulling the big band sound of yesteryear into the 21st century using all the instruments from that bygone era to create a signature sound that blurs the boundaries between pop, soul, jazz, & hip-hop. \* \* \* Next, **The Jive Aces** returns to swing in the holidays performing energetic renditions of Christmas favorites and fresh arrangements of classics—from such greats as Louis Prima, Bobby Darin, Dean Martin and more. \* \* \* Pianist **Mona Golabeck** intertwines some of the world's most beloved piano music as she shares the poignant and true story of how her remarkable mother Lisa Jura—a young Jewish pianist—escaped Nazi-controlled Austria and triumphed through her talent. \* \* \* The series concludes with **Four by Four**, a stellar cast of four sensational entertainers that perform the hits from four of the most iconic musical styles in pop music history—the Beach Boys, the Beatles, the Bee Gees and Motown.
- [The Urban Renewal Project](#)  
Sunday, Oct. 02, 2016 at 2 p.m.
- *Swing'n the Holidays* featuring [The Jive Aces](#)  
Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 at 2 p.m.
- [Mona Golabeck, The Pianist of Willesden Lane](#)  
Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 2 p.m.
- [Four by Four](#)  
*A Tribute to the Beach Boys, the Beatles, the Bee Gees and Motown*  
Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 2 p.m.

## Single Events

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The Carpenter Center offers something for everyone with this diverse array of performances that are not part of a subscription series. The compelling and comedic play, **N\*gger Wetb\*ck Ch\*nk**—written by three actors who were tired of being typecast and discriminated against because of the color of their skin—returns once more to directly confront racial slurs and stereotypes while stimulating cultural awareness and acceptance. \* \* \* Ambassador of Americana, **Charles Phoenix**, supercharges the classic living room slide show into a laugh-out-loud celebration of spectacular mid-century car culture, space age style, landmark attractions, festive fashions, outrageous architecture, theme parks, and more. \* \* \* The Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia brings their adaptation of Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd's bedtime classics, **Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny**. Whimsical puppetry, dreamlike imagery, and original music bring a new sense of appreciation to these stories that have delighted generations. \* \* \* Returning for its fourth year is **David Benoit Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown**, a Carpenter Center holiday tradition of cherished Vince Guaraldi tunes and more—starring jazz pianist David Benoit, featured vocalist Sara Gazarek, and special appearance by the All-American Boys Chorus! \* \* \* The **Capitol Steps** return the weekend before the next Presidential Inauguration to wring every bit of laughter out with brand new and up-to-the-minute political satire song parodies that take aim at the outrageous goings on.

## Single Events (cont.)

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\* \* \* Country singer **Collin Raye** delivers soulful, heartfelt material with the honesty and richness that is signature to his vocals. Made possible in part by the generosity of an anonymous donor. \* \* \* A true living legend, singer/guitarist **José Feliciano** delivers an exhilarating performance while sharing his trademark ability to re-invent rock classics with a Latin spin. \* \* \* Alison Mackay seeks to redefine the concert experience with her latest multimedia creation. Performed by the acclaimed **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra**, the performance explores the world of artisans—papermakers, violin carvers, string spinners, and performers—who helped J.S. Bach realize his musical genius. \* \* \* As part of their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour, **Altan** appears at the Carpenter Center with a dynamic performance that includes touching ballads to hard-hitting reels and jigs. Regarded by many as the world's finest traditional Irish band, Altan has an unwavering commitment to the beauty of traditional music, particularly that of the Donegal fiddlers and singers. \* \* \* Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, human rights advocate, and former New York Times columnist **Nicholas Kristof** will take the stage for an empowering evening sharing his exploits throughout the world, and discussing his new book, *A Path Appears*. \* \* \* The excitement of a live concert awaits as the cult favorite, **Pink Floyd LaserSpectacular**, returns by demand with two hours of thrilling visuals choreographed to one of the greatest bands of all time, Pink Floyd.

- [N\\*gger Wetb\\*ck Ch\\*nk](#)  
Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016 at 8 p.m.
- [Charles Phoenix](#), *This is Americana* (Comedy Slide Show Celebrating Classic & Kitschy American Life & Style!)  
Saturday, Oct. 15, 2016 at 8 p.m.
- [Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia](#), *Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny*  
Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
- [David Benoit Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown](#)  
Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016 at 8 p.m.
- [Capitol Steps](#)  
Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017 at 8 p.m.
- [Collin Raye](#)  
Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 8 p.m.
- [José Feliciano](#)  
Saturday, March 04, 2017 at 8 p.m.
- [Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra](#) *J.S. Bach: Circle of Creation*  
Saturday, March 04, 2017 at 8 p.m.
- [Altan](#),  
Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 8 p.m.
- [Pink Floyd LaserSpectacular](#)  
Friday, April 21, 2017 at 8 p.m.

Patrons get the best seats in the house when they subscribe to a subscription series. Series subscribers also enjoy other benefits, including significant discounts on single tickets. A 2016-17 advance priority subscription order form is available online at [CarpenterArts.org](http://CarpenterArts.org)

The WOW! Series three-event subscription is \$79, the Wit and Wisdom Series three-event subscription is \$149, the Dance Series three-event subscription is \$99, the Sunday Afternoon Concert Series four-event subscription is \$99, and the Cabaret Series four-event subscription with dinner starts at \$224. A Cabaret series subscription for the show only starts at \$140. Tickets will be available for purchase online at [CarpenterArts.org](http://CarpenterArts.org) on May 20, with select discount seats offered online until July 31 (subject to availability). All programs, performers, prices, dates and times are subject to change. Presentations are made possible in part by Season Media Partner KPCC 89.3-FM and Season Hospitality Sponsor Gelson's Market.

For additional information, contact the Arts Ticket Office at (562) 985-7000 or visit the box office on the Cal State Long Beach campus at 6200 E. Atherton St. Box office hours are Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and two hours prior to performance.

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