

SPECIAL WINTER CONCERTS



DECEMBER 9

SUNDAY

7:00PM

 WORLD VOICES: ISRAEL
CHAVA ALBERSTEIN

HERBST THEATRE

“The leading female singer in Israel, with a voice full of tenderness.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Singer/songwriter Chava Alberstein is a living legend in her homeland, with a career spanning 40 years and 50 albums. As *Billboard* aptly put it, her music “pays homage to the past while engaging with the present, [evoking] both a bygone Eastern European universe and modern Israel.”

Alberstein’s sense of “homage to the past” has lifelong roots: her family emigrated from Szczecin, Poland, to Israel when she was four years old, and that early bi-cultural bridging laid the foundation for her global musical spirit. The familiar Yiddish she heard before leaving Europe is now part of her songbook, as are Hebrew and English. “Even though I have lived in Israel nearly my entire life,” Alberstein said, “I am constantly questioning my place in the world.”

In Israeli music-industry circles, however, there is *no* question of Alberstein’s belonging. She is the recording artist with the greatest seniority at CBS Israel, and six of her albums have been awarded the Kinor David prize, the Israeli equivalent of the Grammy. Twelve of her releases have been certified gold, a half dozen platinum, and one triple platinum.

Those numbers are a reflection of the profound impact her work has had upon countless listeners over multiple generations. By exploring indigenous folk as well as global styles, Alberstein has expanded her cross-cultural ties even further. And through a collaboration with the New York-based Klezmatics on the 1998 album *The Well*, she won legions of new fans throughout America.

End of the Holiday (2004) is Alberstein’s most recent domestic release and weaves many storylines from the viewpoint of various protagonists living in present-day Israel. A collaboration with her husband, documentary filmmaker-poet-lyricist Navad Levitan, the disc brings both an everyday epic and an immensely intimate vantage point to Israeli life.

CHAVA ALBERSTEIN

Chava Alberstein, vocals, guitar
 Oved Efrat, guitar
 Avi Agababa, percussion

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH



1 Festival Debut.
 Artists making their first Festival appearance.



JANUARY 25

FRIDAY

8:00PM

 SACRED SPACE
LE MYSTÈRE DES VOIX BULGARES

GRACE CATHEDRAL

“The most beautiful music on the planet.”

—ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Having enchanted a capacity audience at Grace Cathedral during the 2006 SFJAZZ Spring Season, the Grammy-winning choir “Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares” returns for an encore “Sacred Space” performance to commemorate this Silver Anniversary season.

Founded over half a century ago to preserve and promote Bulgarian folk music, the all-female choir first achieved worldwide popularity in the 1980s—beginning when the British independent label 4AD (onetime home to the Cocteau Twins, Pixies, and Dead Can Dance) re-released a *Le Mystère* compilation album self-issued a decade prior by Swiss ethnomusicologist Marcel Cellier (who coined the group’s French-language name, which translates to “The Mystery of Bulgarian Voices”). In the late ’80s, U.S. releases on the tastemaker Nonesuch label—the second of which earned a Grammy Award—exposed the choir’s musical magic to an even broader audience. Members of *Le Mystère* have since recorded with the likes of British art-rock singer-songwriter Kate Bush and classical crossover violinist Vanessa-Mae.

By employing traditional Bulgarian harmonies—simultaneously dissonant and sublimely beautiful—vocal punctuations, and irregular rhythms, *Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares* performances fall under the “sound of surprise” definition that Whitney Balliett once used to describe jazz. As *The New York Times*’ Jon Pareles put it: “The choir of two dozen women sounds both angelic and, to American ears, gorgeously alien.”

LE MYSTÈRE DES VOIX BULGARES

Hristiva Dorka Gueorguieva,
 Conductor
 Barova Kalinka Martinova, Manager

Vocals

Bojkova Elena Dimitrova
 Kostadinova Gergana Dimitrova
 Eftimova Violeta Petrova
 Ivanova Olga Borissova
 Nakova Violeta Marinova
 Mircheva Rumyana Petrova
 Vachkova Kremena Stancheva
 Damyanova Dafinka Danailova
 Gadjeva Daniela Kostadinova
 Koteterova Binka Ivanova

Kovacheva Sofiya Ilieva
 Leshkova Mariya Dimitrova
 Nankova Radka Parvanova
 Nedialkova Roussana Dimitrova
 Hristova Evelina Spasova
 Vladimirova Silviya Stoyanova
 Asparuhova Ruslana Evlogieva
 Hristova Vasilka Damyanova
 Boiadjeva Marina Ignatova
 Krastanova Elichka Dincheva
 Miloucheva Evguenia Stoyanova
 Stoitchkova Daniela Mileva
 Velyovska-Bogeva Tsvetelina

Soloists

Spassov Daniel Svetoslavov
 Ivanov Milen Emilov