

September 21, 2018 at 7:30pm | **Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall**

# **BOBBY MCFERRIN**

vocalist

## **GIMME5**

Joey Blake

Rhiannon

Judi Donaghy Vinar

Dave Worm

## **CIRCLESONGS**

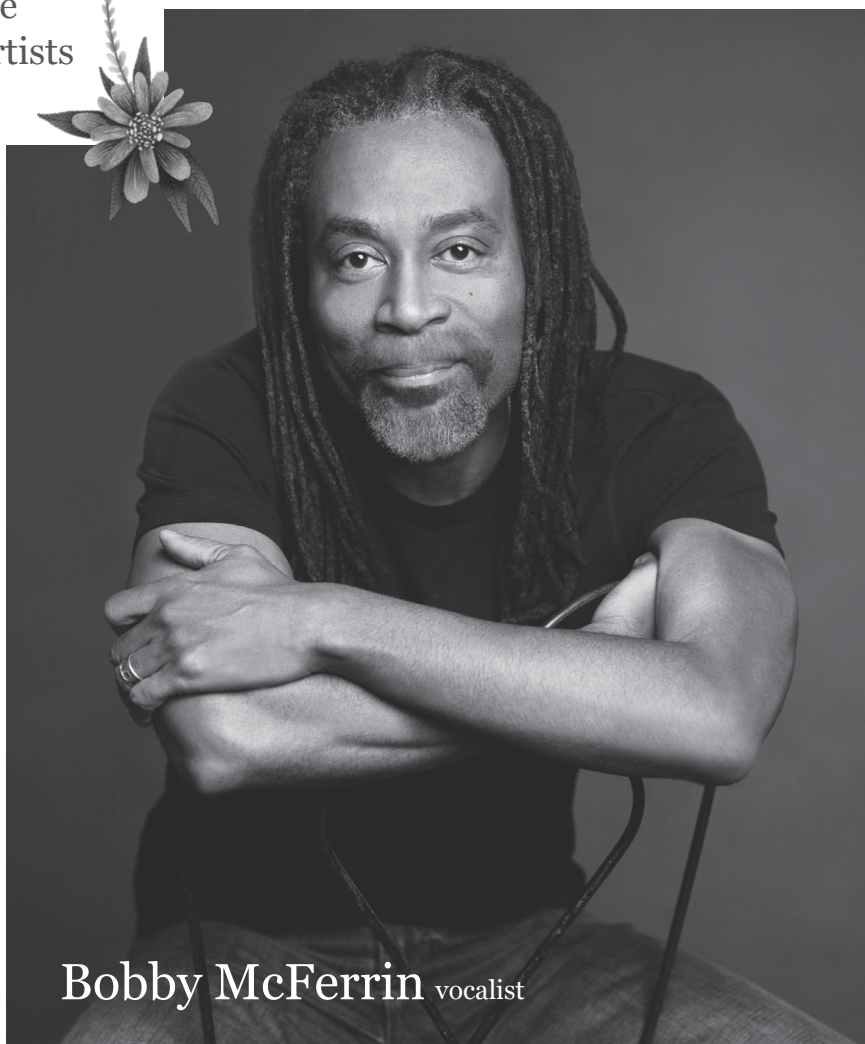
with special guests

the **PRINCETON UNIVERSITY GLEE CLUB**

**GABRIEL CROUCH**, director

*This concert will be performed without intermission.*

About  
the  
Artists



**Bobby McFerrin** vocalist

Born in Manhattan and raised in Los Angeles, McFerrin started out in jazz bands and went on to develop a reputation as a visionary whose curiosities and uncanny abilities know no bounds. Influenced by Keith Jarrett’s wholly improvised solo concerts, McFerrin created his own solo a cappella performances that would make him a phenomenon—both in a live setting, where he uses jaw-dropping trademark techniques to capture a vast palette of sounds; and on recordings, where his legendary, pioneering multi-tracked vocals gave the world a reason to smile with “Don’t Worry, Be Happy.”

10 Grammy's and many artistic triumphs followed. McFerrin and jazz piano master Chick Corea showcased their improvisational genius and profound creative relationship on 1992's *Play*. That same year, McFerrin released the landmark album *Hush* with classical crossover wonder Yo-Yo Ma, exploring orchestral repertoire from the inside out and redefining the musical capabilities of the human voice. Other must-hear releases include *Circlesongs* and ambitious vocal tapestries like *Beyond Words* and *VOCABuLarieS*. In 1990, on his 40th birthday, McFerrin, utilizing his classical training and global popularity, was given the opportunity to conduct the San Francisco Symphony, and he has gone on to lead the world's finest orchestras, including the Vienna, London, and New York Philharmonics.

But McFerrin's masterwork is what comes together nightly in concert. Onstage, his limitless imagination keeps his audiences guessing as to where he'll go and what he'll do next—and his infectious, ecstatic energy allows his fans to surprise themselves. Or, as the *Los Angeles Times* put it, "Bobby McFerrin's greatest gift to his audience may be changing them from spectators into celebrants and transforming a concert hall into a playground, a village center, a joyous space."

This concert marks Bobby McFerrin's Princeton University Concerts debut. With his ability to bring people together in a

remarkable way, McFerrin transforms Richardson Auditorium into the perfect "joyous space" in which to celebrate the launch of Princeton University Concerts' 125th anniversary season, bringing together the community in a bigger and bolder way than ever before in PUC's history.

## GIMME5

Gimme5 features Joey Blake, Rhiannon, Judi Donaghy Vinar, and Dave Worm—all trusted veterans of Voicestra, the panoramically gifted 12-member choir that McFerrin founded in the

1980s. With a telepathic rapport and a love for the unknown, they unite in an improvised program based on McFerrin's sweeping, soulful vocal language: a wide-open, all-embracing space where art music meets pop, jazz meets classical, lyrics meet pure sound, the avant-garde meets the traditional, where all the cultures of the world become one.

Gimme5 is based on Circlesinging, a musical practice and philosophy that McFerrin has been

honing since he began as a solo a cappella performer, assigning vocal parts to his fans and transforming sold-out houses into impromptu choirs. Audiences are invited to sing along and join in on a spontaneous adventure fueled by jazz, pop, R&B, classical, and world music—or, more accurately, out-of-this-world music—all rolled into one.



He has the uncanny ability to bring out your inner child.

-*The New York Times*

## Princeton University Glee Club

Gabriel Crouch, Director

Ulysses S. Grant was president, Verdi Requiem was premiered, and the Battle of Little Big Horn was still two years in the future when the Princeton University Glee Club was founded in 1874 by Andrew Fleming West, the first Dean of the Graduate College. In its early years, the group consisted of a few young men and was run entirely by its student members, but in 1907, Charles E. Burnham became the first of a long line of eminent professional musicians to lead the Glee Club. Since that time, the ensemble has established itself as the largest choral body on Princeton's campus and has distinguished itself both nationally and overseas.

Today the Glee Club performs frequently on Princeton's campus, enjoying the wonderful acoustic and aesthetic of Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall. Led by Gabriel Crouch, Director of Choral Activities and Senior Lecturer in Music at Princeton University, the choir embraces a vast array of repertoire.

The spectrum of Glee Club members is perhaps even broader: undergraduates and graduate students, scientists and poets, philosophers and economists—all walks of academic life are represented, knit together by their belief in the nobility and joy of singing together.



I want  
everyone  
to leave the  
theatre and  
sing in their  
own kitchens  
the next  
morning.

*Bobby McFerrin*



## Inviting all Princeton University Students

Join Princeton University Concerts as we celebrate our 125th anniversary. Concerts, intermission meet-ups, classroom visits, curricular connections, masterclasses, residencies, and more—it's all part of our year-long party.



## Ticket Deals

Take advantage of FREE! tickets for all university students through Passport to the Arts and last minute seat upgrades through the Student Upgrade Program.

## Student Ambassadors of PUC

Your fellow music-lovin' comrades host events just for you including Internoshin' (snack-filled intermission meet-ups), the Creative Reactions Contest (an annual writing/vis art contest responding to live music), Teagames (better than pregames) and more.

Visit [princetonuniversityconcerts.org/for-students](https://princetonuniversityconcerts.org/for-students) for more information and to join the student email list.

# Celebrating



**YEARS  
OF MUSIC  
MAKING**

2018-2019 SEASON

Anniversaries are often a time for looking back on all that has come before. And with 125 years of presenting the world's greatest musicians—from cellist Yo-Yo Ma to violinist Isaac Stern, the Budapest String Quartet to contralto Marian Anderson, pianist Vladimir Horowitz to pianist Dame Myra Hess—there can be no doubt that Princeton University Concerts has made an immeasurable impact on the history of classical music.

But as we celebrate our 125th season, we choose to look toward the future.

Toward musical luminaries who transcend genre, bringing us to the very heart of music.

Toward an ever-evolving concert experience—from the focused intensity of Performances Up Close, to the transformative connectedness of Live Music Meditations—within the incredible intimacy of Richardson Auditorium and beyond.

Toward reshaping our musical canon through commissions, interdisciplinary initiatives, and reveling in the unexpected.

It will be a year-long celebration of our commitment to redefining how classical music is presented and experienced and striving to introduce ever broader audiences to the most gloriously life-affirming music that the world has to offer.

**This is just the beginning...**

## SUPPORT US

Supporting Princeton University Concerts is critical to our future. Ticket sales cover less than half of the cost of presenting the very best in world-class music. Remaining funds come, in part, from our generous endowment, left to PUC by the Ladies' Musical Committee in 1929. We remain eternally grateful for the support of the Philena Fobes Fine Memorial Fund and the Jesse Peabody Frothingham Fund.

Other support comes from donors like you. We are grateful to the individuals whose support at all levels ensures that the musical performance remains a vital part of Princeton, the community, and the region.

**If you wish to make a donation to Princeton University Concerts**, please call us at 609-258-2800, visit [princetonuniversityconcerts.org](http://princetonuniversityconcerts.org), or send a check payable to Princeton University Concerts to: Princeton University Concerts, Woolworth Center, Princeton, NJ 08544.

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**We are deeply grateful for all of the support we receive from our staff and volunteers.**

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