

P E R S P E C T I V E S

Jordi Savall



Viola da gamba virtuoso, conductor, musicologist, and visionary, Jordi Savall presents a four-concert Perspectives in the 2020–2021 season, celebrating pillars of the early-music repertoire and wide-ranging programs of his own creation. The series kicks off in November with two performances focused on works by Monteverdi—the composer’s *Vespro della Beata Vergine* and *Madrigals of Love and War*—featuring Le Concert des Nations and singers from La Capella Reial de Catalunya, both groups founded by Mr. Savall. He returns in April as part of Carnegie Hall’s festival *Voices of Hope: Artists in Times of Oppression*, highlighting the dialogue and music of the peoples of the Balkans, and the Roma and Armenian diasporas. The concert, titled *Bal-Kan: Honey and Blood, Music in the Ottoman Empire*, features Mr. Savall leading his Hespèrion XXI ensemble while playing the vielle and rebec, joined by guest musicians from Hungary, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Turkey, Romania, and beyond. Mr. Savall’s final performance reveals the expanse of Mediterranean musical traditions from Europe to the Islamic world. The program will be presented in four parts with Mr. Savall on viella and rebab, Hakan Güngör on kanun, and Dimitri Psonis on oud, santur, saz, and percussion.

For more than 50 years, **Jordi Savall** has rescued musical gems from the obscurity of neglect and oblivion, bringing them back for all to enjoy. A tireless researcher of early music, he interprets and performs the repertoire both as a gambist and as a conductor. His activities as a concert performer, teacher, researcher, and curator of new musical and cultural projects have made him a leading figure in the reappraisal of historical music. Together with Montserrat Figueras, he founded the ensembles Hespèrion XXI (1974), La Capella Reial de Catalunya (1987), and Le Concert des Nations (1989), with whom he explores and creates a world of emotion and beauty shared with millions of early-music enthusiasts around the world. “The work Mr. Savall and his musicians do is not simply a matter of revival, but of imaginative reanimation,” according to *The New York Times*.

Mr. Savall has recorded and released more than 230 albums that cover Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical repertoires with a special focus on the Hispanic and Mediterranean musical heritage, receiving many awards and distinctions. His concert programs have employed music as an instrument of mediation to achieve understanding and peace between different and sometimes warring peoples and cultures. Accordingly, guest artists appearing with his ensembles include Arab, Israeli, Turkish, Greek, Armenian, Afghan, and North American musicians. In 2008, Mr. Savall was appointed to be an ambassador of the European Union for intercultural dialogue and, together with Montserrat Figueras, was named an Artist for Peace under the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors program.

Mr. Savall first appeared at Carnegie Hall in 2002, presenting a viola da gamba recital in Weill Recital Hall. Since then, he has returned frequently, including performances with his Le Concert des Nations in Zankel Hall. In February 2017, he launched Carnegie Hall’s citywide festival, *La Serenissima: Music and Arts from the Venetian Republic*, leading Hespèrion XXI and Le Concert des Nations in *The Millenarian Venice: Gateway to the East*, a program that surveyed more than 1,000 years of music from Venice, Istanbul, Cyprus, and Crete in Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage. Most recently, in 2019, he led a Zankel Hall program dedicated to the music of French composer-gambists Jean de Sainte-Colombe and Marin Marais—music he recorded for the soundtrack to the film *Tous les matins du monde*.

Thursday, November 5 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

Jordi Savall: Monteverdi's Vespers

Le Concert des Nations
La Capella Reial de Catalunya
Jordi Savall, Music Director
Lucía Martín-Cartón, Soprano
Monica Piccinini, Soprano
David Sagastume, Countertenor
Makoto Sakurada, Tenor
Lluís Vilamajó, Tenor
Furio Zanasi, Baritone
Antonio Abete, Bass
Gianluca Buratto, Bass

MONTEVERDI *Vespro della Beata Vergine*

This concert is made possible, in part, by an endowment fund for choral music established by S. Donald Sussman in memory of Judith Arron and Robert Shaw.

Monday, November 9 at 7:30 PM | Zankel

Jordi Savall: Monteverdi's Madrigals of Love and War

Le Concert des Nations
Soloists of La Capella Reial de Catalunya
Jordi Savall, Music Director and Viol

MONTEVERDI *Madrigals of Love and War* (Eighth Book of Madrigals)

Tuesday, April 13 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

Jordi Savall: Bal-Kan

Honey and Blood: Music in the Ottoman Empire

Hespèrion XXI
Jordi Savall, Music Director, Vielle, and Rebec
Tcha Limberger, Voice and Violin
Amira Medunjanin, Voice
Stoimenka Outchikova-Nedialkova, Voice
Katerina Papadopoulou, Voice

Musical dialogue of the Balkans, and the Roma and Armenian diasporas

Wednesday, April 14 at 7:30 PM | Weill

Jordi Savall: The Distant Voices

In the Mediterranean Traditions

Jordi Savall, Viella and Rebab
Hakan Güngör, Kanun
Dimitri Psonis, Oud, Santur, Saz, and Percussion

The history of the Mediterranean is tied to numerous migrations, conflicts, and diasporas with the three major religions of the region—Christianity, Islam, and Judaism—influencing beliefs and shaping music. Passionate dances, moving laments, and popular songs performed on instruments from Europe and the Islamic world reveal the tremendous musical expanse of the Mediterranean.



Hervé Puyfoucat

Jordi Savall