

LILA DOWNS

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

There will not be an intermission.

Friday, May 1@8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lila Downs

Downs is one of the most influential artists in Latin America. She has one of the world's most singular voices and is known for her charismatic performances. Her own compositions often combine genres and rhythms as diverse as Mexican rancheras and corridos, boleros, jazz standards, hip-hop, cumbia and North American folk music. Her music often focuses on social justice, immigration and women's issues.

She grew up in both Minnesota and Oaxaca, Mexico. Her mother is from the Mixtec indigenous group and her father was Scottish-American. Downs sings in Spanish, English and various Native American languages such as Zapotec, Mixtec, Nahuatl, Maya and Purepecha.

She has recorded duets with artists as diverse as Mercedes Sosa, Caetano Veloso, Juanes, Norah Jones, Juan Gabriel, Carla Morison, Natalia LaFourcade, Santana, The Chieftains, Nina Pastori, Soledad, Diego El Cigala, Aida Cuevas, Totó La Momposina and Bunbury. Chavela Vargas named Downs her "successor". She has sung with symphonies such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony and the UNAM symphony in Mexico, as well as with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. She has given concerts at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, the Hollywood Bowl and Auditorio Nacional in Mexico City. Barack Obama invited her to sing at the White House and she has also performed at the Oscars for her participation in the film *Frida*.

Downs has recorded nine studio albums. She has been nominated for nine Grammy® Awards and has won six.

