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Yo-Yo Ma to perform in Norway for the first time in 13 years

World-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma will perform a recital with artistic partner and pianist Kathryn Stott at the 2019 Bergen International Festival. This will be his first concert in Norway since 2006.



French-born Chinese-American [Yo-Yo Ma](#) has long been one of the world's most high-profile cellists, with appearances ranging from the recent [Armistice ceremony in Paris](#) to TV series [Sesame Street](#) and [The West Wing](#).

He made his [debut at age seven when he performed for president John F. Kennedy in 1962](#), and has since played for a further seven American presidents. His discography includes more than 100 albums, including 19 Grammy Award winners, two of which he won with his long-time artistic partner, [British pianist Kathryn Stott](#). A regular visitor to international festivals both as a soloist and chamber musician, she has constantly performed around the world since 1978 and is recognized as one of the United Kingdom's most versatile and imaginative musicians. Among Kathryn Stott's many roles is a [professorate at the Norwegian Academy of Music](#). Her collaboration with Yo-Yo Ma goes back more than 30 years.

'I'm proud to present this star duo at the Bergen International Festival. With an insatiable curiosity, Yo-Yo Ma has devoted his life to musical journeys across the earth and has become a giant in the classical world. In collaboration with Kathryn Stott, the musical results are no less than extraordinary,' says Festival director Anders Beyer, who has worked for several years to get the duo to Bergen.

The recital with Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott on 03 June 2019 is one of 25 classical concerts at the 2019 Bergen International Festival now launched. Among the international musicians on the programme is another artist often mentioned on lists of the world's best cellists. **Steven Isserlis** will play two concerts at the intimate concert hall at composer Edvard Grieg's home, together with renowned pianist **Robert Levin**. The Berliner Philharmoniker's first concert master **Noah Bendix-Balgley** is also featured, both in a duo and together with star ensemble **Philharmonix**, whose programmes often include both Queen and Tchaikovsky.

From Norway comes both critically acclaimed ensembles such as the **Vertavo Quartet** and fresh, newly graduated talents. Festival composer **Unsuik Chin** is represented with several works performed by **Arctic Philharmonic's sinfonietta**, **Oslo String Quartet**, **BIT20 Ensemble** and others.

In 2019, the Bergen International Festival takes place from 22 May til 05 June. The full programme will be launched in January/February. For more information, please contact interim communications manager Silje Vestvik: siljev@fib.no / +47 94 31 94 39

Photo: Todd Rosenberg. [Click here to download press photos.](#)

Notes to editors:

Bergen International Festival/Festspillene i Bergen

- The Bergen International Festival is the largest of its kind in Scandinavia and presents hundreds of events in a variety of genres, with the main focus on music and stage arts.
- The first Bergen International Festival took place in 1953, inspired by a previous initiative by Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg.
- His Majesty King Harald V of Norway is the Festival's patron.

