THE FRIEND | Author: Sigrid Nunez
When a woman unexpectedly loses her lifelong best friend and mentor, she finds herself burdened with the unwanted dog he has left behind. Her own battle against grief is intensified by the mute suffering of the dog, a huge Great Dane traumatized by the inexplicable disappearance of its master, and by the threat of eviction: dogs are prohibited in her apartment building.

Hear from the author! Monday, September 23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland

HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST | Author: Ibram X. Kendi
How to Be an Antiracist, is a bracingly original approach to understanding and uprooting racism and inequality. Kendi shares liberating new ways of thinking about race and asks readers to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how individuals can play an active role in building it. He weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science, bringing it all together with an engaging personal narrative of his own awakening to antiracism.

Hear from the author! Monday, October 14, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland

LEadership in Turbulent Times | Author: Doris Kearns Goodwin
Doris Kearns Goodwin is a renowned presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author. In her illuminating exploration, Leadership in Turbulent Times, she draws upon the extraordinary and inspiring qualities of four presidents—Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson (in civil rights)—to show how they recognized leadership qualities within themselves and were recognized as leaders by others.

Hear from the author! Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland

CIRCE | Author: Madeline Miller
In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child—not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power—the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves. Circe is a triumph of storytelling, an intoxicating epic of family rivalry, palace intrigue, love and loss, as well as a celebration of indomitable female strength in a man’s world.

Hear from the author! Monday, November 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland

GOD: A HUMAN HISTORY | Author: Reza Aslan
Reza Aslan is an internationally renowned writer, commentator, professor, producer, and scholar of religions. In God: A Human History, he thoughtfully explores the history of religion as an attempt to understand the divine by giving God human traits and emotions. In layered prose and with accessible scholarship, Aslan cohesively roots out this humanizing impulse in order to develop a more universal spirituality.

Hear from the author! Monday, November 25, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland
**THE OVERSTORY** | Author: Richard Powers

National Book Award winner Richard Powers’ sweeping, impassioned (and bestselling) novel of environmental activism, *The Overstory* unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fable that range from antebellum New York to the late twentieth-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. *The Overstory* is a book for all readers who despair of humanity’s self-imposed separation from the rest of creation and who hope for the transformative, regenerating possibility of a homecoming. If the trees of this earth could speak, what would they tell us? “Listen. There’s something you need to hear.”

Hear from the author! Monday, December 9, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland

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**IN THE DREAM HOUSE** | Author: Carmen Maria Machado

Unpacking the stereotype of lesbian relationships as safe and utopian, *In the Dream House* is a bold dissection of the mechanisms and cultural representations of psychological abuse. Tracing the full arc of a harrowing relationship with a charismatic but volatile woman, Machado struggles to make sense of how what happened to her shaped the person she was becoming. The result is a wrenching, riveting book that explodes our ideas about what a memoir can do and be.

Hear from the author! Monday, January 20, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland

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**THERE, THERE** | Author: Tommy Orange

*There, There* is the shattering debut novel by Tommy Orange, a relentlessly paced multigenerational novel following twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to each other in ways they may not yet realize. Together, a chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism.

Hear from the author! Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland

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**WASHINGTON BLACK** | Author: Esi Edugyan

George Washington Black, or “Wash,” an eleven-year-old field slave on a Barbados sugar plantation, is terrified to be chosen by his master’s brother as his manservant. To his surprise, the eccentric Christopher Wilde turns out to be a naturalist, explorer, inventor, and abolitionist. Soon Wash is initiated into a world where a flying machine can carry a man across the sky, where even a boy born in chains may embrace a life of dignity and meaning—and where two people, separated by an impossible divide, can begin to see each other as human. But when a man is killed and a bounty is placed on Wash’s head, Christopher and Wash must abandon everything.

Hear from the author! Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland

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**WARLIGHT** | Author: Michael Ondaatje

It is 1945, and London is still reeling from the Blitz and years of war. 14-year-old Nathaniel and his sister, Rachel, are apparently abandoned by their parents, left in the care of an enigmatic figure named The Moth. They suspect he might be a criminal, and grow both more convinced and less concerned as they get to know his eccentric crew of friends: men and women with a shared history, all of whom seem determined now to protect and educate Rachel and Nathaniel. But are they really what and who they claim to be? A dozen years later, Nathaniel begins to uncover all he didn’t know or understand in that time, and it is this journey—through reality, recollection, and imagination—that is told in this magnificent novel.

Hear from the author! Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland