

44th SEASON



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sfperformances.org

SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES ANNOUNCES 2023-2024 SEASON

CHAMBER, VOCAL, PIANO, GUITAR, PIVOT, GREAT ARTISTS & ENSEMBLES, AND
SATURDAY MORNING SERIES FEATURE DEBUTS AND PREMIERES IN 37 CONCERTS AND
RECITALS SEPT 29, 2023—MAY 3, 2024

The 2023-24 season features debuts by:

- **Miranda Cuckson**, violin, and **Blair McMillen**, piano
- **Raehann Bryce-Davis**, mezzo-soprano
- **Attacca Quartet**
- **Antoine Hunter and Urban Jazz Dance Company**, in a groundbreaking collaboration with the Calder Quartet
- **Pekka Kuusisto** (with Gabriel Kahane)
- **Conor Hanick**, piano (with Jay Campbell, cello)
- **Stephanie Jones**, guitar

West Coast Premieres by:

- **Timo Andres** (for Calder Quartet)
- **Mark-Anthony Turnage** (for Castalian String Quartet)
- **Tyson Gholston Davis** (for Jonathan Biss)
- Three premieres by **Gabriel Kahane** (with Attacca Quartet and Roomful of Teeth)
- **Alvin Singleton** (for Jonathan Biss)
- **Tyshawn Sorey** (for Jonathan Biss)

Additional highlights of the season:

- SFP's ninth **PIVOT Festival**, guest curated by composer/musician **Gabriel Kahane**

- **Echoes of Schubert**, a series of three programs in which pianist **Jonathan Biss** engages contemporary composers to create new works in response to Schubert's monumental piano music
- A Gala celebration of the **Alexander String Quartet's** 35th Anniversary as San Francisco Performances' Quartet in Residence

San Francisco, CA, April 4, 2023—In announcing what she describes as “a season of performances that refine and redefine the sound and experience of chamber music,” San Francisco Performances President **Melanie Smith** has made public details of the 44-year-old organization's 2023-2024 schedule of 37 concerts September 29, 2023, through May, 3 2024. A complete list of artists and series may be found below. Subscriptions go on sale to the public **April 11** at sfperformances.org, or by phone at **(415) 677-0325**.

The 2023-2024 season features debuts by artists including **Miranda Cuckson and Blair McMillen, Raehann Bryce-Davis, Attacca Quartet, Antoine Hunter and Urban Jazz Dance Company, Pekka Kuusisto, Conor Hanick, and Stephanie Jones**, and West Coast premieres by composers **Timo Andres** (for Calder Quartet), **Mark-Anthony Turnage** (for Castalian String Quartet), **Tyson Gholston Davis** (for Jonathan Biss), three premieres by **Gabriel Kahane** (with Attacca Quartet and Roomful of Teeth), **Alvin Singleton** (for Jonathan Biss), and **Tyshawn Sorey** (for Jonathan Biss).

“The cherished and familiar stand beside the eagerly anticipated and new this season,” says Smith. “We are proud to present the return of artists our audiences love to hear and see, together with debuts of performers we are certain Bay Area audiences will want to experience again and again. We look forward to coming together for exquisite moments where history and the present touch us through live music. We know we will come away moved and, sometimes, changed, by these collective experiences. It is our sincere hope that together, we will create memories for our futures, when we will look back and say, ‘I was there when...’ “

SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES 2023-2024 SEASON BY SERIES

All performances at Herbst Theatre unless otherwise noted
401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

PIANO

Isata Kanneh-Mason

Friday, October 6, 2023 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM: HAYDN: Piano Sonata No. 60 in C Major, Hob. XVII/50; **FANNY MENDELSSOHN:** Easter Sonata; **ROBERT SCHUMANN:** *Kinderszenen*, Op. 15; **CHOPIN:** Piano Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 58

Stephen Hough

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM: MOMPOU: *Cants Mágics*; **SCRIABIN:** Piano Sonata No 5, Op 53; **DEBUSSY:** *Estampes*; **HOUGH:** *Partita*; **LISZT:** *3 Petrarch Sonnets; Dante Sonata*

Javier Perianes

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM: **CLARA SCHUMANN:** *Variations on a theme by Robert Schumann, Op. 20* **SCHUMANN:** Sonata for Piano in F Minor, Op. 14, III. Quasi variazioni. Andantino de Clara Wieck; **BRAHMS:** *Variations on a Theme of Robert Schumann, Op. 9*; **GRANADOS:** *Goyescas*

Pierre-Laurent Aimard

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM: To be announced

GREAT ARTISTS AND ENSEMBLES

Miranda Cuckson | Violin

Blair McMillen | Piano

Thursday, November 2, 2023 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM: Works by **JANÁČEK**, **BEETHOVEN**, **PROKOFIEV**, and **ROSS LEE FINNEY**

Jay Campbell | Cello

Conor Hanick | Piano

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM: **ERIC WUBBELS:** *Gretchen am Spinnrade*; **SCHUBERT:** Two Impromptus for piano (A-Flat Major, F Minor), Op. 90; **GYÖRGY LIGETI:** Three Etudes (*Fanfare, Arc-en-ciel, L'escalier*); **RACHMANINOFF:** Sonata for cello and piano in G Minor, Op. 19

Leila Josefowicz | Violin

John Novacek | Piano

Saturday, February 24, 2024 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM: **DEBUSSY:** Sonata for Violin and Piano in G Minor, L140; **SZYMANOWSKI:** *Mythes, Trois Poèmes*, Op. 30; **ERKKI-SVEN TÛÜR:** *Conversio* for Violin and Piano; **STRAVINSKY:** *Divertimento* from *The Fairy's Kiss*

Pekka Kuusisto | Violin

Gabriel Kahane | Piano

Friday, May 3, 2024 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM: To be announced

THE SHENSON CHAMBER SERIES

Calder Quartet

This versatile and vibrant ensemble excels equally at composer collaborations and standard-setting

performances of classics. They appear twice in our 2023-24 season.

with Timo Andres | Piano

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 | 7:30pm

A pair of dazzling and diverse contemporary composers provides sonic contrast and context to Schubert.

PROGRAM: ANDRES: *Machine, Learning*; plus a new piano quintet; **SCHUBERT:** Rosamunde Quartet in A Minor; **ANN SOUTHAM:** *Remembering Schubert*

with Antoine Hunter | Urban Jazz Dance Company

Saturday, March 16, 2024 | 7:30pm

A superbly gifted choreographer, founder of Oakland's Urban Jazz Dance Company, and advocate for the Deaf community, Antoine Hunter expresses his experience in a hearing world through dance. This performance also features **Zahna Simon** of Urban Jazz Dance Company.

PROGRAM: *The Mind's Ear: Motion Beyond Silence*

JOHN CAGE: Quartet in 4 Parts; **BEETHOVEN:** String Quartet Op.130 with *Grosse Fuge*; **JESSIE MONTGOMERY:** *Strum*; **CAROLINE SHAW:** *Entr'acte*; **JULIUS EASTMAN:** *Joy Boy*

JACK Quartet

Thursday, October 26, 2023

PROGRAM: All John Luther Adams

Castalian String Quartet

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

PROGRAM: JANÁČEK: String Quartet No. 1 *Kreutzer Sonata*; **MARK-ANTHONY TURNAGE:** *Awake* (composed for Castalian String Quartet, premiering 2023); **MENDELSSOHN:** Quartet in F Minor, Op 80

Dover Quartet

Leif Ove Andsnes, piano

Thursday, April 25, 2024

PROGRAM: TURINA: *La oración del torero (The Bullfighter's Prayer)*, Op. 34; **DOHNÁNYI:** Piano Quintet No. 2 in E-flat Minor, Op. 26; **BRAHMS:** Piano Quintet in F Minor, Op. 34

PIVOT Festival

For the ninth year of PIVOT, guest curator **Gabriel Kahane** and friends dig deep into music that asks enduring and enlightening questions about our ever-changing world and seeks the uplift of answers rooted in shared experience.

Kahane writes, "**Roomful of Teeth** and **Attacca Quartet** are two of my favorite ensembles. They make music at the highest level, and with the utmost humanity. It will be a rare privilege to see them share a stage, and it is a thrill and honor for me to participate in some of the music-making."

Gabriel Kahane | Piano
with Attacca Quartet
Wednesday, January 24, 2024 | 7:30pm

Gabriel Kahane | Piano
with Roomful of Teeth
Thursday, January 25, 2024 | 7:30pm

Gabriel Kahane | Piano
with Roomful of Teeth
and Attacca Quartet
Friday, January 26, 2024 | 7:30pm

PROGRAMS: To be announced

ART OF SONG

Ian Bostridge | Tenor
Saturday, October 21, 2023
PROGRAM: SCHUBERT: *Winterreise*

Raehann Bryce-Davis | Mezzo-Soprano
Saturday, January 27, 2024 | 7:30pm
PROGRAM: AMY BEACH: Three Browning Songs, Op. 44; *The Year's at the Spring; Ah, Love, but a day!; I send my heart up to thee!*; **RICHARD WAGNER:** *Wesendonck Lieder; Der Engel; Stehe Still!; Im Treibhaus; Schmerzen; Träume;* **MELISSA DUNPHY** (text by Walt Whitman): *Come, My Tan-Faced Children;* **MARGARET BONDS** (text by Langston Hughes): *Birth;* **FLORENCE PRICE** (text by Louise C. Wallace): *The Crescent Moon;* **MARIA THOMPSON CORLEY:** *The Beauty in my Blackness; I'm Not An Angry Black Woman;* **PETER ASHBOURNE:** *Fi Mi Love Have Lion Heart: No. 3 – Banyan Tree; No. 4 – Fi Mi Love Have Lion Heart; No. 5 – Nobody's Business*

Lawrence Brownlee | Tenor
Kevin Miller | Piano
Thursday, February 29, 2024 | 7:30pm
PROGRAM: RISING

ROBERT OWENS: *Desire, Op.13; Silver Rain, Op. 11;* **JEREMIAH EVANS:** *April Son; Lost Illusions; Southern Mansion;* **MARGARET BONDS:** *Songs of the Seasons;* **CARLOS SIMON:** *Vocalise I, II, III;* **DAMIEN SNEED:** *Beauty that is never old; The Gift to Sing; To America;* **SHAWN OKPEBHOLO:** *Romance;* **JOEL THOMPSON:** *Supplication; Compensation; My People*

Ilker Arcayürek | Tenor

Simon Lepper | Piano

Thursday, March 21, 2024 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM: Works by **BEETHOVEN, SCHUMANN, HAHN, MENDELSSOHN, R. STRAUSS, BRAHMS, FAURÉ**, and others

SATURDAY MORNINGS

Music as a Mirror of Our World: The String Quartet from 1905 to 1946

The esteemed and popular **Alexander String Quartet** has enlivened SF Performances seasons for more than three decades, joined by Music Historian-in-Residence **Robert Greenberg**. Together they explore in music and words some of chamber music's most intriguing and important composers, their works, lives, and times. Looking back to the early years of the last century, the Quartet and Greenberg will explore the rich history of bright innovation during often dark times.

Saturdays at 10am

October 28, 2023 | **Program 1: AUSTRIA**

SCHOENBERG: String Quartet No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 7; **WEBERN:** *Langsamer Satz*; Five Movements for Strings

November 11, 2023 | **Program 2: RUSSIA**

STRAVINSKY: Three Pieces for String Quartet; Concertino for String Quartet; **PROKOFIEV:** String Quartet No. 1 in B Minor, Op. 50

January 27, 2024 | **Program 3: CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

JANÁČEK: String Quartet No. 1, *Kreutzer Sonata*; **HAAS:** String Quartet No. 2, Op. 7, *From the Monkey Mountains*

March 2, 2024 | **Program 4: UNITED STATES**

PISTON: String Quartet No. 1; **BARBER:** String Quartet in B Minor, Op. 11

March 23, 2024 | **Program 5: AUSTRIA**

ZEMLINSKY: String Quartet No. 4, Op. 25; **KORNGOLD:** String Quartet No. 3 in D Major, Op. 34

April 27, 2024 | **Program 6: UNITED KINGDOM**

BRITTEN: String Quartet No. 2 in C Major, Op. 36; **WALTON:** String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor

GALA EVENT

We celebrate the **Alexander String Quartet's** 35th Anniversary as our Quartet-in-Residence during a special evening, Friday, September 29, beginning at 7pm. Tickets for the concert are \$50; tickets for the Gala cocktails, dinner, and concert start at \$500. Proceeds benefit San Francisco Performances' arts

education programs.

ECHOES OF SCHUBERT

San Francisco Performances favorite **Jonathan Biss** returns with an ambitious and intriguing series of recitals that ask contemporary American composers of three generations to consider and musically respond to the legacy of Franz Schubert. Alvin Singleton (b. 1940) draws inspiration from a wide stream including folk and spiritual, classical and pop, with often surprising and theatrical nuance. Tyshawn Sorey (b. 1980) is “a composer of radical and seemingly boundless ideas” (*Wall Street Journal*) who often melds composition and improvisation. At just 23, Tyson Gholston Davis has been commissioned by an astonishing array of artists and ensembles, including the Juilliard String Quartet and Eighth Blackbird.

Jonathan Biss’s boundless curiosity about humanity and art make him a thoughtful and compelling performer. He is known for assembling programs that plumb the depths of history, explore sparks of creativity and affirm the unity of shared experience.

Thursday, January 18, 2024 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM 1: TYSON GHOLSTON DAVIS: New Work; **SCHUBERT:** Impromptu in F Minor, D. 935 no. 1 and Sonata in C Minor, D. 958

Thursday, March 14, 2024 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM 2: ALVIN SINGLETON: New Work; **SCHUBERT:** Impromptu in A flat Major, D. 935 no. 2 and Sonata in A Major, D. 959

Thursday, May 2, 2024 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM 3: TYSHAWN SOREY: New Work; **SCHUBERT:** Impromptu in B flat Major, D. 935, no. 3 and Sonata in B flat Major, D. 960

GUITAR

Stephanie Jones

Saturday, October 7, 2023 | 7:30pm | St. Mark’s Lutheran Church

PROGRAM: Works by **PIAZZOLLA, JOBIM/DYENS, SÉRGIO ASSAD**, and others

Dublin Guitar Quartet

Friday, November 10, 2023

PROGRAM: GLASS: String Quartet No. 2 Company; Piano Etudes No. 2, 9, 16, and 20; String Quartet No. 3 Mishima; **WOJCIECH KILAR:** *Orawa*; **RACHEL GRIMES:** *Book of Leaves*; **MARC MELLITS:** New arrangement; **ARVO PÄRT:** *Summa*

Beijing Guitar Duo

Saturday, December 2, 2023 | 7:30pm | St. Mark's Lutheran Church

PROGRAM: **FRANCK:** Prélude, Fugue et Variation Op. 18; **DEBUSSY:** Petite Suite; **FAURÉ:** *Dolly Suite*, Op. 56; **GRANADOS:** *Valses Poéticas*; **ALBÉNIZ:** *Bajo la Palmera*; *Castilla*; **PIAZZOLLA:** *Tango Suite*

Pepe Romero

Saturday, February 10, 2024 | 7:30pm

This solo recital celebrates Pepe Romero's 80th birthday and more than seven decades on the professional stage.

PROGRAM: To be announced

George Hinchliffe's Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM: To be announced from the stage

GIFT CONCERTS

SFP subscribers and donors will receive complimentary tickets to two concerts in our 2023-24 season. Tickets will go on sale to the general public at a later date.

Camille Thomas | Cello

Thursday, February 15, 2024 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM: To be announced

Jonathan Swensen | Cello

Stephen Waarts | Violin

Juho Pohjonen | Piano

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 | 7:30pm

PROGRAM: To be announced

SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES 2023-2024 SEASON BY DATE

All performances at Herbst Theatre unless otherwise noted

401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

SEPTEMBER 2023

29 Gala Event and Concert: Alexander String Quartet

OCTOBER 2023

6 Isata Kanneh-Mason, piano

7 Stephanie Jones, guitar (St. Mark's Lutheran Church)

10 Calder Quartet and Timo Andres, piano

21 Ian Bostridge, tenor

26 JACK Quartet

28 Alexander String Quartet and Robert Greenberg, Music Historian-in-Residence

NOVEMBER 2023

2 Miranda Cuckson, violin and Blair McMillen, piano

8 Jay Campbell, cello and Conor Hanick, piano

10 Dublin Guitar Quartet

11 Alexander String Quartet and Robert Greenberg, Music Historian-in-Residence

14 Stephen Hough, piano

15 Castalian String Quartet

DECEMBER 2023

2 Beijing Guitar Duo (St Mark's Lutheran Church)

JANUARY 2024

18 Jonathan Biss, piano | Echoes of Schubert, Program 1

24 PIVOT Festival: Gabriel Kahane and Attacca Quartet

25 PIVOT Festival: Gabriel Kahane and Roomful of Teeth

26 PIVOT Festival: Gabriel Kahane, Attacca Quartet, and Roomful of Teeth

27 Alexander String Quartet and Robert Greenberg, Music Historian-in-Residence

27 Raehann Bryce-Davis, mezzo-soprano

FEBRUARY 2024

7 Javier Perianes, piano

10 Pepe Romero, guitar

15 Camille Thomas, cello (Gift Concert)

24 Leila Josefowicz, violin and John Novacek, piano

27 Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano

29 Lawrence Brownlee, tenor and Kevin Miller, piano

MARCH 2024

2 Alexander String Quartet and Robert Greenberg, Music Historian-in-Residence

14 Jonathan Biss, piano | Echoes of Schubert, Program 2

16 Calder Quartet and Antoine Hunter, Urban Jazz Dance Company

21 Ilker Arcayürek, tenor and Simon Lepper, piano

23 Alexander String Quartet and Robert Greenberg, Music Historian-in-Residence

APRIL 2024

16 George Hinchliffe's Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain

23 Jonathan Swensen, cello, Stephen Waarts, violin and Juho Pohjonen, piano (Gift Concert)

25 Dover Quartet and Leif Ove Andsnes, piano

27 Alexander String Quartet and Robert Greenberg, Music Historian-in-Residence

MAY 2024

2 Jonathan Biss, piano | Echoes of Schubert, Program 3

3 Pekka Kuusisto, violin and Gabriel Kahane, piano

Ticket Information

Subscriptions on sale April 11, 2023

Subscribers receive benefits, including savings on single ticket prices, priority seating, free ticket exchange privileges, and invitations to a gift concert. Call the San Francisco Performances ticket office at **(415) 677-0325** or visit sfperformances.org. **Single event tickets go on sale August 15, 2023**

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES

San Francisco Performances has been a leader in the Bay Area cultural scene since our founding in 1979. With a strong curatorial vision and adventurous programming, we are the city's premier presenter of intimate concerts and solo performances.

We have introduced hundreds of established and emerging classical music, jazz and dance artists to audiences, including Yo-Yo Ma, the Juilliard String Quartet, Philip Glass, Wendy Whelan, and the Paul Taylor Dance Company. We also champion a new generation, committed to building a contemporary and equitable repertoire. Performers like the Catalyst Quartet, violinist Jennifer Koh, tenor Lawrence Brownlee, and pianist/composer Vijay Iyer are moving their art into the present and future, making it accessible to younger audiences while converting many traditionalists to new possibilities. They represent the path forward.

Quality, intimacy, and connection are the hallmarks of San Francisco Performances. We nurture unique relationships with today's best artists to create an accessible, warm, and engaging arts experience.

**For selected high-resolution images of the 2023-24 season
please contact Terry Conway at terry@sfperformances.org
or visit our [Press Room](#)**

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